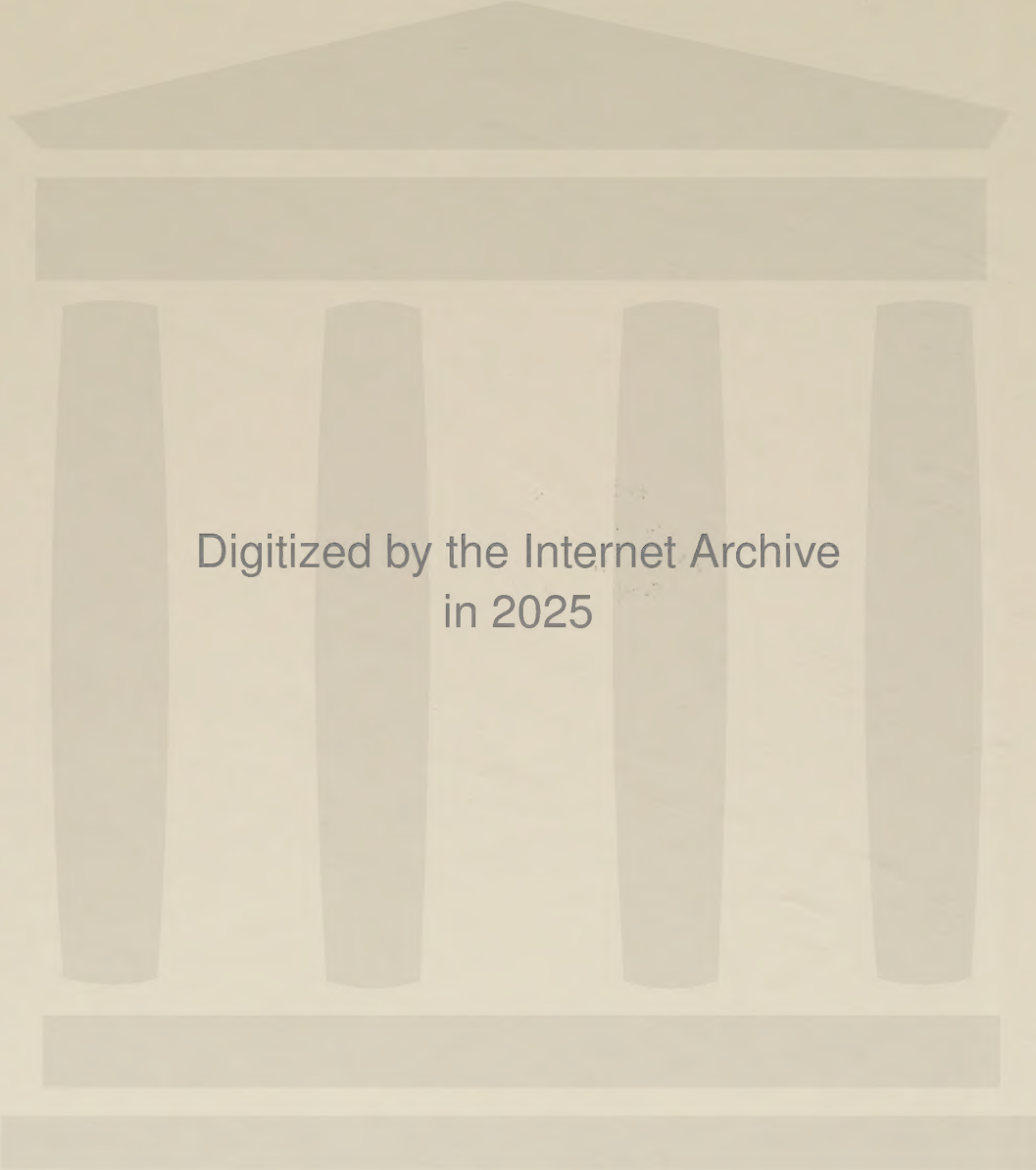


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A
BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

OF
PREBLE COUNTY

OHIO

COMPENDIUM OF NATIONAL BIOGRAPHY

ILLUSTRATED

CHICAGO
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1900



Biography is the only true History.—*Emerson.*

A people that take no pride in the noble achievements of remote ancestors
will never achieve anything worthy to be remembered with
pride by remote generations.—*Macaulay.*



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PART II.

A BIOGRAPHICAL HISTORY

OF

PREBLE COUNTY,

OHIO.



Very respectfully
J. P. Charles

PREBLE COUNTY, OHIO.

JOHN P. CHARLES.

 HE paternal ancestry of John P. Charles were of English and Welsh descent, representatives coming to America in the early colonial days and settling at Nantucket, whence they emigrated to Maryland, where the principles of religious toleration had been, for the first time, formally proclaimed; and later on they settled in North Carolina, where the father of John P. Charles, Smith Charles, was born in Guilford county, in 1781, within the sound of General Greene's guns in the Revolution. The Charles family, of the Quaker persuasion, left Massachusetts on account of Puritan intolerance for that faith. Smith Charles came from North Carolina in 1806, and stopped temporarily in Warren county, near Springboro. He entered land on Four Mile creek in Dixon township, Preble county, on which he settled in 1808, there being, as the saying goes, "not a stick amiss." The land remains in the possession of the family still. Before making his settlement Mr. Charles had married Nancy Kercheval.

On the maternal side, J. P. Charles' ancestors were of French and English blood, having come to this land in the time of the persecution of the French Huguenots. The French branch were originally called Coeur

de Cheval, meaning "the heart of a horse," which gradually changed until it became Kercheval. They claimed relationship to the French nobility, and one of them yet holds a magnificent chateau in France. They came to America early in the seventeenth century and settled in Virginia. The earliest record shows them living near the city of Winchester in the Shenandoah valley. The grandfather of the subject of this sketch, James Kercheval, emigrated first to Kentucky, settling near Bardstown. Thence he removed to Ohio, stopping first in Butler county and from there came to Preble county, settling on Four Mile creek in Dixon township and building the first mill and establishing the first still-house in that section of the country, at the place subsequently known as Niccum's Mill. The maiden name of the wife of James Kercheval was Mary Pottinger, a sister of the Pottinger men who were early settlers near Camden. Mrs. Kercheval was buried near Fair Haven and soon after that event James Kercheval returned to Kentucky, where he died in the early '20s, and his remains were interred not far distant from Newport, Kentucky. The mother of the subject of this sketch was born in Virginia and died on the Charles farm in Dixon township in 1823, being buried beside her mother in the old Caldwell burying-ground near Fair Haven,

where a considerable number were buried in early times. The spot of interment has no mark and the plow has passed over the graves, a fate that has come to the graves of many of the first deceased of this county, who were buried on private grounds. Smith Charles died in 1868, at the ripe age of eight-seven years, and was laid to rest in the Fair Haven cemetery.

John P. Charles was the fourth son of Smith Charles and Nancy, his wife, who had seven children, all of whom have passed away except him. He was born in Dixon township, Preble county, on the 20th of June, 1815, and was reared on his native heath, working on the farm as was usual in those days, and attending school when there was no work to do in the winter time. By dint of application he obtained in his 'teens a pretty fair elementary education in the "three R's" and also a smattering of geography and grammar. When about seventeen years of age he took offense at the exercise of parental authority and foolishly ran away from a good home and kind parents. He went to Michigan, and, the Black Hawk war breaking out, he joined a company and served until honorably discharged. For that service he now receives a pension. After the close of his service he gladly returned to his home, where he was welcomed by his good father and the family.

Growing tired of farming, he conceived the idea of becoming a lawyer, and in 1836 began the study of law in Eaton, with J. M. U. McNutt, then the leading attorney of the county and one of the first lawyers of the state. Not long after commencing to read law, his esteemed preceptor died. Mr. Charles then left for Tennessee to visit relatives living there, and through the influence of his uncle, he entered the office of

Hon. A. V. Brown, who was subsequently the governor of the state and then postmaster general of the United States, with whom he finished his course and was licensed to practice law. Going to Memphis, Tennessee, he entered the office of Brown & Topp for a time, but in 1840 returned to his native county for a rest and did not return to the south as he had intended doing. In 1841 he obtained a law license in Indiana and began his profession at Winchester, Indiana, but not finding the profession congenial to his taste he gave it up, bidding adieu to Bacon, Lyttleton, Coke and Blackstone forever.

Then as a means of support he engaged in teaching school, and while in pedagogy he contracted an itching for journalistic life. In the years 1845-6-7 he was the editorial writer of the Eaton Register, and in 1848 purchased the Hamilton Intelligencer, which, after conducting it for some time, he sold. He then went to Minnesota with Charles K. Smith, the newly appointed secretary of that territory, as his clerk, in which capacity he wrote up the first records of that state in 1849. It was his privilege to make the roll call of the popular branch of its first law-making assembly. The next year he received an appointment at Washington to a clerkship in the pension bureau, from which position he was removed by President Pierce, being an "offensive partisan," and no protective civil service existed in those days, to the victors being given the spoils; and his bureau chief said to him, "Mr. Charles, there is no objection to you, but our friends are clamorous for place and somebody must be removed." In those days they recognized the fact that parties failing to take care of friends were likely soon to need friends to take care of them.

Following close on his removal, in May,

1853, he was married to Mrs. Sarah E. Jackson, a most charming and gifted lady, whose maiden name was Copp, a daughter of Joshua Copp, and her mother's maiden name was Pillsbury. His wife was born in New Hampshire, in November, 1822. They lived happily together until July, 1899, when Mrs. Charles died, at Eaton. He moved to Iowa and engaged in a land agency for a time and subsequently was connected for some twelve years with the Pennsylvania Railroad Company as a traveling agent. At the close of that service he removed to Salem, Illinois, and went into the culture of fruits, which was not a success with him, and he returned to his native state, Ohio, settling for a time in New Paris. During the most of his time he kept in touch with and continued his journalistic work, being a correspondent of several papers. Again, in 1880, he renewed his editorial connection with the Eaton Register, which he now retains. He, however, has spent some part of the last score of years in Washington in the interior department as both a pension and census clerk. Though he has tried many lines of business, not holding very firmly to anything, he has for more than half a century kept up his love for journalistic life and retained a kind of connection with newspapers in all his varied itineracy. It may with truth be said that during all his life he has been something of a newspaper man. It has been truthfully said of him that he excels as a political writer, and being well informed and endowed by nature with a forcible and clear style of writing, is entitled to no mean place among American journalists. He has always been loyal to the Whig and Republican principles and to-day loves the "G. O. P." principles with almost an idolatrous devotion. To this ven-

erable resident of the county, now past eighty-five years of age, there were born two children, a son and daughter. The former sleeps beside his mother in Eaton's beautiful cemetery, and the daughter, Miss Bessie Charles, lives to bless the declining days of her aged father and is a popular and well-known teacher in the Eaton public schools.

RICHARD E. MORROW.

Richard E. Morrow, ex-representative of Preble county, Ohio, and one of the prominent farmers of the county, was born at the place where he now lives, December 6, 1847. He is a son of Richard and Sarah (Barr) Morrow and one of a family of nine children, five of whom are living at this writing, namely: Sarah J., a practicing physician and surgeon, of Richmond, Indiana; Delorma B., a practicing physician and surgeon of St. Louis, Missouri; James M., who lives with his brother, Richard E., the subject of this sketch; and Horace C., a physician and surgeon of Austin, Texas. Richard Morrow, the father, was born in Waynesville, Warren county, Ohio, January 29, 1807, and was brought by his parents to Preble county March 29th of the same year. His father, Andrew Morrow, was a native of Orange county, North Carolina, born December 29, 1767, a son of William and Rachel (Reed) Morrow, both of whom were natives of Edinburg, Scotland, and came to America with his two brothers, Hugh and George, about the year 1750. After a short time spent in Pennsylvania the three brothers went to North Carolina, and in that state William Morrow, the great-grandfather of our subject, acquired an extensive landed estate. He was a Quaker, and was killed by a roving band of Tories during

the Revolutionary war, while trying to recover a valuable horse and some other property that had been stolen. After his death his estate, according to the colonial laws, reverted to his eldest son's child, the son being dead. The grandfather of our subject then bought a portion of the old home place and resided there until the fall of 1806, when he sold out and came to Ohio, spending the winter at Waynesville. The following March he came to the location where the subject of this sketch now lives. Here, in the midst of the forest, he built a temporary shelter and later a substantial log house. His original claim was six hundred and forty acres, but he subsequently sold one hundred acres of it to a younger brother; and on this farm he passed the remainder of his life and died, his death occurring in 1847. Like his father he was of Quaker faith and took no part in politics. His wife, whose maiden name was Rebecca Laughlin, was born in Orange county, North Carolina, November 30, 1760, and her death occurred in 1856.

Richard Morrow, the father of our subject, was reared in Jackson township, where he was married in 1832. While his early educational advantages were limited, he was a great reader and a close observer, and thus acquired a broad knowledge of men and affairs. When a young man he was an Abolitionist, and later was a radical Republican, though he never sought or held public office. He was a man of unswerving integrity and exerted an influence for good in the district where he lived. In business he was successful, accumulating a comfortable competency. He was a member of the Masonic order, in which he advanced to the Royal Arch degree, and in his life he exemplified the teachings of that ancient and hon-

ored organization. At the ripe old age of eighty-six years, he passed away May 16, 1893. His worthy companion, *nee* Sarah Barr, was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, November 22, 1810. She was the daughter of Alexander and Mary (McElheny) Barr. Grandfather Barr, a native of Scotland, came to America early in the nineteenth century, and settled in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, whence in 1815 he emigrated to Ohio, settling in Jefferson township, Preble county. He was a Presbyterian, a man of broad learning, and for many years was a teacher in the public schools, for a number of years being the only teacher in his district. He also carried on farming operations. Grandmother Barr was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania.

Richard E. Morrow spent his youth on his father's farm, receiving his early education in the common schools and later entering the National Normal University, at Lebanon, Ohio, where he graduated in 1872. For six years following his graduation he devoted his time to teaching, being successively principal of the schools at Patriot, Indiana, at Clay City, Urbana, and Clinton, Illinois. He then turned his attention to the study of law, in the office of Adams & Michener, of Shelbyville, Indiana, where he spent six months. Before completing his studies, however, he decided to devote his life to agricultural pursuits, and in the year 1879 returned to the home farm, where he and his brother have since carried on operations in partnership, their farm comprising two hundred and twenty acres.

Mr. Morrow has ever shown a public spirit and taken an active interest in everything intended to promote the welfare of his country, and especially of the locality in which he lives. In many public capacities

he has rendered valued service. He was president of the board of education four years. An ardent Republican, he is the acknowledged leader of his party in Jackson township, and is as popular as he is well known throughout the county. He has been a delegate to state and county conventions almost continuously since 1889, except two years. He served nine years as justice of the peace. In 1897 he was elected to the state legislature, serving one term, and was one of the seventy-three who voted for Mark Hanna. In 1899 Mr. Morrow was renominated by his party for another term in the legislature, but met defeat in the Republican Waterloo of that season.

Mr. Morrow was united in marriage in 1880 to Miss Mattie J. Adams, a native of Shelbyville, Indiana, and a daughter of Thomas B. Adams, the well-known attorney of that place. They are the parents of five children, namely: Delorma A., now at the age of nineteen, is a teacher in the district schools of the township and is preparing for a college course; Edwina is a graduate of the township high school and now a teacher in New Paris, Ohio; and Richard B., Mary and Ruth complete the family.

JOHN H. GIBBINS.

One of the most prominent educators connected with the public schools of western Ohio is Professor John H. Gibbins, who is now superintendent of the Eaton schools. His marked ability has gained him prestige, for his scholarly attainments are supplemented by superior ability in imparting clearly and concisely to others the knowledge he has acquired. With a just appreciation of the importance of his work, he

has given to it the most earnest thought, study and investigation, and his methods are therefore progressive and intensely practical, serving as an excellent preparation for the duties of life.

Professor Gibbins is a native of Maryland, his birth having occurred in Frederick county, on the 15th of May, 1847. His father, Miles Gibbins, was born in county Mayo, Ireland, and came to America about 1840, taking up his abode in Frederick county, Maryland, where he worked on a farm for a time. Later he engaged in shoemaking. In 1858 he removed to Preble county, Ohio, settling in Gratis, and at the present time he is living in Dayton, at the age of eighty-seven years. He married Miss Mahala Hessong, a daughter of John Hessong, of Pennsylvania, and she is still living, at the age of seventy-six years. In their family are six children, namely: John H., George T. and Charles Ed, who are residents of Dayton; Mary C., wife of Charles Hull, of Dayton; Jacob E., who is living in the same city; and Emerson B., a resident of Columbus, Ohio.

Professor Gibbins, of this review, supplemented his common-school education by study in the high schools of Eaton and Lebanon, Ohio. His educational course was not continuous, for at intervals he taught school and thus earned the money with which to pay his expenses. During the civil war he loyally responded to the call of the country, enlisting in August, 1862, in the Ninety-third Ohio Infantry. He joined the army at Camden and was at the front for about eight months, after which he was taken ill and received an honorable discharge.

Professor Gibbins began teaching in 1869, in the district school in Lanier township, Preble county, where he remained nine

years. His connection with the district schools in the capacity of teacher covered a period of nineteen years, and he was never employed in any district where he could not have again secured the position had he wished to do so. His services have always been acceptable, and his marked ability has gained him a high place in this portion of Ohio. For a time he was employed as a teacher in Camden and later engaged in the grain business in that town. Subsequently he accepted the position of teacher in the high school in Israel township, and was afterward township superintendent. In 1891 he was elected county treasurer on the Republican ticket and so acceptably discharged the duties of the office that he was re-elected in 1893. When his four-years term was ended he resumed teaching in West Elkton, Preble county, and in 1897 he was appointed superintendent of the Eaton schools. There are two school buildings under his care, in which are eighteen teachers and six hundred pupils. His work has been most successful and under his guidance the schools of Eaton are making pronounced and rapid progress. He is continually on the alert to improve the methods and to advance the standards, and all his work is characterized by a thoroughness the result of which is certainly excellent. Advancement is his watchword and the proficiency of the work done in the Eaton schools well qualifies the student for the practical duties which may devolve upon them in the active affairs of life. The habits of thoroughness and strong mental concentration which are there formed prove important elements in their careers after leaving the schoolroom, and it is because Professor Gibbins regards education as a preparation for life that his school work has been so successful. While serving as

county treasurer, he was also a member of the school board.

In 1873 was celebrated the marriage of Professor Gibbins and Miss Sarah J. Yost, a daughter of Anthony Yost, of Preble county, who was a representative of one of the old families of Virginia. Their union was blessed with three children: Mary C., Melissa and Ada. Socially the subject of this review is connected with the Odd Fellows society, the Knights of Pythias fraternity and has also been commander of the Grand Army Post at Camden and in Eaton. After the war, when he was only seventeen years of age, he was elected second lieutenant of the Ohio state militia. Professor Gibbins has justly won the proud American title of the self-made man, as all his advancement has been the result of his own efforts. In early life, as in later years, he has devoted what is usually termed leisure hours to study and improvement and thus has he gained an eminent position in the ranks of the Ohio educators. Professor Gibbins is a man of high intellectuality, broad human sympathies and tolerance, and imbued with fine sensibilities and clearly defined principles. Honor and integrity are synonymous with his name, and he enjoys the respect, confidence and high regard of the community.

RICHARD E. BRANDENBURG.

Richard E. Brandenburg was born in German township, Montgomery county, on the 5th of September, 1851, one of the nine children of Samuel and Malinda (Feaster) Brandenburg. His father was a native of Maryland, born in Frederick county, in 1814. In early life he learned the shoemaker's trade, which he followed continuously until his thirtieth year, after which

he gave his attention both to shoemaking and farming. Some time later he abandoned his first vocation, his time being devoted entirely to agricultural pursuits. About 1835 he came to Ohio, locating in German township, where he resided up to the time of his death. He was successful in business, acquiring some three hundred acres of land, and gave to all his children a good start in life. He also instilled into their minds lessons of industry, economy and straightforward dealing, and these have proved of great benefit to them. Mr. Brandenburg died in 1871, in the faith of the Reformed church, of which he was a valued member. An upright, honorable man, he commanded the respect and confidence of all with whom he was associated, and to his family he left the priceless heritage of an untarnished name. Seven of his nine children still survive, as follows: Josiah E., of Winchester, Ohio; Aaron P., an engineer in Germantown, Ohio; Samuel T., a farmer of Whitley county, Indiana; Anna R., wife of Henry Green, a farmer of Montgomery county, Ohio; Layanne, wife of Charles Gilbert, a farmer of German township, Montgomery county; Richard E., the subject of this review; and John W., a farmer of Gratis township, Preble county. The deceased were Elizabeth, who married Frank Rodeffer, of Montgomery county, and Sarah, who married George R. Feerer, of Warren county, Ohio.

Richard E. Brandenburg was reared to manhood upon the home farm, acquiring his education in the common schools and at the National Normal School, at Lebanon, Ohio. At the age of nineteen he began teaching in the district schools of Warren county, and after being there employed for one year returned to Montgomery county,

where he followed teaching for four years. He was a capable educator, maintaining discipline and readily imparting to others the knowledge he had acquired. On the 13th of January, 1876, he was united in marriage to Miss Emily A. Cooper, a native of German township, Montgomery county, and a daughter of Jacob and Harriet (Patton) Cooper. Her father was born in German township, his parents being among the pioneer settlers of Montgomery county. About 1877 he removed to Campbellstown, Ohio, where both he and his wife spent their remaining days.

After his marriage Mr. Brandenburg took charge of his father-in-law's farm and for eight years operated that place as a renter. In 1884 he purchased one hundred and nine acres of his present farm in Jackson township, Preble county, and here he has since been successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. As the years have passed his capital has been augmented and he has added to his farm until now a valuable tract of two hundred and forty acres yields to him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestows upon it. He also engages to some extent in stock raising and this has added materially to his income. His labors are energetically prosecuted, and along the lines of legitimate business he has acquired a handsome competence which classes him among the substantial residents of Jackson township.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Brandenburg was blessed with seven children, namely: Edna, wife of Harry E. Irvin, a carpenter of Jackson township; Earl, at home; Samuel, who is engaged in teaching in the district schools; Clyde, deceased; and Hattie, Orpha and Harold, at home. In his political affiliations Mr. Brandenburg is a Democrat and

has held several local offices. He served for one term as assistant land appraiser; for one term as assessor; and is now filling the position of township trustee, to which he was elected in the spring of 1900. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and he does all in his power to promote the best interests of the schools. For several years he officially served as president of the board of education, and it was largely through his instrumentality that there was erected at Campbellstown a township high school, which is the pride of this section of the county. Mr. Brandenburg is a member of Eaton Lodge, No. 30, I. O. O. F., and he contributes in a large measure to the support of every movement which he believes will prove of public good. As a citizen he is progressive and loyal, as a business man straightforward and honorable and as a friend he is faithful and consistent.

WILLIAM BRUCE.

In William Bruce, the founder of Eaton, a high type of pioneer life and character was exemplified. The name Bruce is so closely interwoven with the history of Eaton and Preble county that no historical record of this section would be complete without mention of the family. As the name indicates, the Bruces are of Scotch lineage, and in the subject of this biography were preserved many of the distinguishing and admirable traits of the Scotch people. His father and five brothers, Highlanders, leaving the land of hills and heather, crossed the Atlantic to the new world in 1746, on account of the Scottish rebellion then in progress. They located upon the banks of the Potomac, in Virginia, where William Bruce was born September 20, 1762, and at the age of nine

years went with his father to Pennsylvania, the family locating at Redstone, near the present city of Pittsburg.

He received in his youth a very meager education, but by reading, observation and experience he became a well informed man. When a mere boy he was engaged in packing goods across the mountains, an occupation which by reason of its vigor and peril developed within him a strong physique and a fearless and sturdy character, thus fitting him for the pioneer life he was to lead in Ohio. On attaining his majority, he removed to Bourbon county, Kentucky, and there, in 1791, he married Frances Lewis, a native of Kentucky, born in 1771. In 1793 he removed with his wife to Warren county, Ohio, and for six years lived near Shakerstown. Then after a brief residence in Butler county they removed to Montgomery county, whence they came to Preble county, in June, 1806. Here he purchased of the government three sections of land, built a cabin on the hill south of the site of Eaton, laid out the town, and built a saw and grist mill, which proved of great convenience to the settlers in the surrounding country. A former writer has recorded the following:

"The village fast gained population under the proprietor's generous scheme of management, and in a few years, almost entirely through his influence, it excelled in good morals and in true prosperity many of the old rivals which had better natural advantages. Mr. Bruce made liberal donations of land for public buildings, churches and schools, and also gave lots to a number of settlers, besides encouraging the worthy poor by various other methods."

To the poor he was generous. His life was one of unusual energy, and his business methods were of honest purpose. In busi-

ness he prospered. In matters of public affair he ever stood ready to promote any and all measures tending to benefit the public. In all things he was thoroughly conscientious, did what he believed to be right and expedient, without regard to public opinion to the contrary. So much was this trait of independence a part of his nature that he was openly pronounced eccentric. He was at one time a member of the Christian church, and because he ground corn on Sunday for the poor, and in some cases for absolutely destitute settlers, members of the church remonstrated with him, and in consequence thereof he withdrew from their fellowship. He was a plain, matter-of-fact man, decided in his views and strictly honest. His sterling traits of character were such as to gain for him the unqualified respect of the people, a fact that was evidenced when he was made the first treasurer of Preble county, and in later years by a number of private trusts reposed in him.

His death occurred in 1832, and over his grave, in Mound Hill cemetery, there stands an appropriate monument, formed in part of grinding stones of his old mill. Eaton also stands as a monument to his enterprise, and as long as the city shall endure he will be remembered with gratitude as its founder. His wife preceded him in death, in 1827. She bore him eleven children, of whom James W. was the last to pass away.

JAMES W. BRUCE.

James W. Bruce, son of William and Frances (Lewis) Bruce, was born April 15, 1813, on the old homestead of his father, in Preble county, and died May 24, 1900. He was reared amid the wilds of the frontier and assisted in the arduous task of clearing

and developing the new land. He pursued his education in the country schools and throughout his life he followed farming. The capable management of his agricultural interests brought him a handsome competence. In 1835 he united with the Masonic fraternity and in his life exemplified the noble and benevolent principles of the order. There is particular satisfaction in referring to the life history of this honored and venerable gentleman, since his mind bore the impress of the historical annals of the state of Ohio from the early pioneer days, and from the fact that he was ever a loyal son of the republic and his memory went back to the days when the forest stood in its primeval strength and was the haunt of the red man. He watched the trees fall before the sturdy stroke of the woodman's ax, to be followed by the transformation of the land into fertile and productive fields. He experienced the struggles and hardships of pioneer life and felt just pride in the splendid position which Preble county now occupies among the leading counties of this great commonwealth.

HARDIN BRUCE.

Hardin Bruce was born in Harrison county, Kentucky, July 1, 1798. Of his father, William Bruce, extended mention is made elsewhere in this volume. He was a lad of eight years when his father came to Preble county. He shared with the family in all the experiences of pioneer life, received a limited education, chose farming for an occupation, and devoted his life to that pursuit, together with stock-raising. In manner he was quiet and unassuming, but possessed that genuine worth which everywhere commands respect and confidence.

He married for his first wife Jane Cook, and for his second Susannah Swihart. By his first wife he had several children, of whom Mrs. Margaret A. Redmond is the only survivor. By his second wife his children were: John Ervin, of Preble county; Mary, who first married James K. Deem and is now the wife of George W. Deem; Frances, who was the first wife of George W. Deem; Kate, wife of G. H. Brouse; Emma M.; and Laura B., wife of Bruce Sayres. The father of this family died in 1879, and the mother passed away in 1896.

JOHN ERVIN BRUCE.

John Ervin Bruce was born in the house which is still his home, on the 5th day of January, 1847. His parents were Hardin and Susannah (Swihart) Bruce. He received his education in the schools of Eaton, and has devoted his life to agricultural pursuits on the old homestead. In addition to farming he is engaged in the dairy business. He is energetic and enterprising, and has been successful in business affairs.

On the 20th of February, 1872, he married Miss Ida Mitchell, daughter of T. C. Mitchell, of Preble county. They have five children: Robert, Horace B., Wallace, Ethel and Fannie. Mr. Bruce is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and is a well and favorably known citizen of Preble county, where his entire life has been passed.

RICHARD DANILY.

There is in the anxious and laborious struggle for an honorable competence and a solid career of the business or professional man fighting the everyday battle of life, but little to attract the idle reader in search of a

sensational chapter; but for a mind thoroughly awake to the reality and meaning of human existence, there are noble and important lessons in the life of the man who, without other means than a clear head, a strong arm and a true heart, conquers adversity, and toiling on through the work-a-day years of a long career finds that he has won not only wealth but also something far greater and higher—the deserved respect and esteem of those with whom his years of active life placed him in contact.

Such a man and one of the leading citizens of New Paris is Richard Danily. He was born in Shropshire, England, December 26, 1860, a son of Richard Danily, whose birth occurred in the same locality. The father was a farmer by occupation and died in his native land at the age of sixty years. His wife bore the maiden name of Ann Ruscoe and was also a native of England, in which country she died at the age of seventy. In their family were six children: Joseph, William, Anna and Letitia, who are residing in the mother country; Elizabeth, who died when about eighteen years of age, and Richard of this review.

Mr. Danily, of this sketch, is the youngest of the family and the only one who came to America. He was reared in his native country until about sixteen years of age, when he determined to seek a home in the new world, crossing the Atlantic to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. He thence made his way to Texas, locating in Olston, where he worked for a time in a lime yard. After a short period, however, he made his way northward to St. Louis, Missouri, and after being employed in that city for a short time went to Illinois. In the Prairie state he worked on a farm until his removal to Preble county, Ohio. He was here again employed as a farm hand by

the month until 1885, when he came to New Paris and engaged in the stone business for the firm of Smith & Son, with whom he worked for about six years. On the expiration of that period, in connection with Thomas Mellody and Patrick Carmen, he formed a partnership in the lime business. A year later Mr. Carmen withdrew and Mr. Danily and Mr. Mellody conducted the enterprise for a year longer, when the latter sold his interest to Noah Deem. The new firm then carried on business for little more than two years when Mr. Danily's father-in-law, C. Hutton, purchased Mr. Deem's interest and the new partnership was maintained until Mr. Hutton's death, when Mr. Danily became sole proprietor. He has since carried on the business successfully and at times employed as many as twenty men. He deals in lime and building stone and has a very liberal patronage, his sales having reached extensive proportions.

Mr. Danily was married in New Paris, in 1884, to Miss Jennie Hutton, a native of Preble county, Ohio, and a daughter of C. Hutton. They now have two children, Fred and Minnie. Their pleasant home is celebrated for its hospitality and the circle of their friends is limited only by the circle of their acquaintances. Mr. Danily is a stanch Republican in his political views and has served as a member of the school board, but has never sought or desired political preferment, his time being fully occupied by his business affairs. He is recognized as one of the leading representative business men of New Paris. He worked as a farm hand in youth, but has steadily advanced by his own well directed efforts, and to-day he is classed among the most substantial residents of his community. He owns valuable property, and what he has acquired is the merited

reward of his own labors. A man of strong individuality and unsullied probity, one who has attained to a due measure of success in the affairs of life, and whose influence has ever been exerted in the direction of the good, the true and the beautiful, this honored veteran of our late war assuredly deserves representation in this volume.

JOHN BROWER.

John Brower is one of the veterans of the civil war and a wide-awake, progressive farmer of Dixon township. His birth occurred October 26, 1842. His father, Daniel Brower, was born near West Alexandria, the grandfather removing from Virginia to the Buckeye state. For many years Daniel Brower was a minister of the German Baptist church, and his earnest Christian life furnished an example well worthy of emulation. In business affairs he was successful, and in all life's relations he commanded the respect and confidence of his fellow men. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Shively, died in 1876. They were the parents of five children of whom three yet survive, namely: Christina, who became the wife of William Harvey, of Howard county, Indiana; John, of this review, and Henry W., of Richmond, Indiana.

Mr. Brower, whose name introduces this record, pursued his education in the common schools and at an early age began earning his own livelihood by working as a farm hand. When his industry and economy had brought him sufficient capital he invested it in land, thus becoming owner of his present farm of one hundred and twenty acres in 1870. In addition to this he operates the farm of one hundred and sixty acres owned by Carey

Toney. He is a wide-awake and progressive agriculturist whose labors are energetically conducted, bringing to him good financial return. At the time of the civil war he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting on the 20th of May, 1864, as a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry.

In September, 1866, Mr. Brower was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca Marshall, a daughter of Josiah Marshall and a representative of one of the old families of this section of Ohio. Eleven children have been born of their union, nine of whom are now living, namely: Daniel, William, Josiah, Albert, Ira, Clara, Alice, Ethel and Homer. The eldest son is now in Connersville, Indiana, but the other children are at home. Mr. and Mrs. Brower both hold membership with the German Baptist church, in which he has served as deacon since 1886. They take a very active part in its work, doing all in their power to promote its welfare, and are most highly respected people, justly meriting the warm regard of their friends.

EDWARD S. STOTLER.

Among the earnest men whose depth of character and strict adherence to principle excite the admiration of his contemporaries, Mr. Stotler is prominent. He is well known in Eaton and Preble county as a banker, capitalist and agriculturist. Banking interests are the heart of the commercial body, indicating the healthfulness of trade, and the bank that follows a safe and conservative business policy does more to establish public confidence in times of wide-spread financial depression than anything else. Such a course has the Eaton bank followed under

the able management of its president, the subject of this sketch. For many years has he been one of the active business men of this section of Ohio, doing much in a quiet way for the substantial improvement and upbuilding of the city with which he has allied his interests.

Mr. Stotler was born in Somerset county, Pennsylvania, on the 13th of February, 1825, and is of German lineage. His parents, Jacob and Mary Ann (Sorber) Stotler, were also natives of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, where the father was born in 1797. In 1833 he emigrated to Preble county, Ohio, locating on a farm on section 36, Twin township, where his wife died in 1846, in her forty-fifth year, leaving a family of four children, namely: Edward S., of this review; Mrs. Lucinda Earhart, formerly of Darke county, Ohio; Miriam, wife of Joseph Copp, of Twin township; and Margaret J., widow of Bethuel Harris and a resident of Monroe township. The father of this family died at the age of fifty-four years, on the farm upon which he settled in 1833.

Mr. Stotler, of this review, pursued his education in the public schools of Twin township and through reading and study after putting aside his text books. He spent the early years of his manhood upon the home farm, continuing there until twenty-four years of age. In the fall of 1849, attracted by the discovery of gold in California, he joined a party of seven gold seekers who went by way of the Isthmus route to California. They were nineteen days on the Gulf of Mexico on a small schooner, and seven deaths from cholera occurred among thirty-five passengers. They went over the Chagres river in Indian canoes or "dugout" to a point called Gorgona and

thence across to Panama, their baggage being carried by natives. At Panama they took passage on a British brig, called *Circassian*, and after forty-three days reached San Francisco, being out of sight of land for fifty-two days from the time they left home.

After reaching the Golden Gate Mr. Stotler went to Sacramento and thence to Mormon Island, arriving there on the 22d of February, 1850. He worked in the mines there for three days, after which he went to Cold Springs, where he engaged in mining for five or six weeks. In company with his partner, Mr. Cunningham, he then returned to Sacramento and afterward to Nevada City, on the south fork of the Yuba river. On that trip he made a bargain with a merchant to drive a team in case the mining venture did not prove satisfactory. He worked at mining for ten days, at ten dollars per day, and then accepted the position of driver, his route being from Sacramento to Nevada City, a distance of about seventy-five miles. For that service he received three hundred and fifty dollars per month, but after a month and a half he was taken ill and was obliged to give up the position. On recovering, however, he entered the employ of the same merchant, for whom he herded cattle at one hundred and fifty dollars per month. He was thus employed for about two months when he was once more taken ill, and during his sickness he paid the attending physician ten dollars for each visit. On recovering he embarked on board a sailing vessel for home, disembarking at Acapulco, Mexico, and making his way overland by way of the city of Mexico to Vera Cruz. He purchased horses and traveled in that way until he reached the Mexican capital, after which he traveled as a passenger in wagons over the same road

which had been traversed by the army of General Scott and was known as the National road. He visited the battle-grounds and saw the natural bridge and puebla. At Vera Cruz he embarked on a Mexican schooner for New Orleans, and during the passage the vessel was overtaken by a disastrous storm which carried away nearly all of the sails, and they were obliged to put into Campeachy for repairs, remaining there for eight days.

On the 3d of April, 1851, Mr. Stotler arrived at his home. His trip had not been very successful financially, but the experience was valuable. He engaged in various kinds of farm labor for several years after his return, and in 1858, in partnership with a Mr. Gale, he rented a country custom-mill, three miles south of West Alexandria, on Twin creek. After operating that mill for a year he built a flour and saw mill at West Alexandria, which has since been in constant operation. In this enterprise he was associated with his partner, Mr. Gale, and with Mr. Glander. They continued to conduct the mill for several years, when Mr. Gale died and the other two partners purchased his interest, Mr. Stotler and Mr. Glander conducting the mill with great success for several years, when Mr. Stotler purchased the other's interest and became sole proprietor. He continued the business for a number of years and about 1890 sold the property, having been identified with the milling business for almost a third of a century. The enterprise proved profitable, bringing to him a good income. He also dealt extensively in timber, buying it and manufacturing it into lumber, which they sold.

Soon after his retirement from the mill he became one of the organizers of the

Twin Valley Banking Company and was one of the principal stockholders and officials. After two or three years' connection with that institution he disposed of his interest and became one of the organizers of the Eaton Banking Company, which is now in control of one of the solid financial interests of Preble county, with which many of the wealthiest and most influential citizens of the community are associated. The financial responsibility equals five hundred thousand dollars. On the organization of the bank Mr. Stotler was elected president; J. H. Mussleman, cashier; and J. M. Gale, assistant cashier. These gentlemen, by annual re-election, have been continued in office, and in the interests of the stockholders of the institution transact a general banking business, which has steadily grown in volume and importance. It is one of the finest banking houses in the city and its patronage has increased year by year. Its success is no doubt due in a large measure to the wise counsel, careful management and keen discernment of the president. Mr. Stotler has also dealt extensively in real estate and at present is the owner of one thousand and ninety-three acres of farm land, eight hundred and eighty-three acres of which is in Randolph and Blackford counties, Indiana, a portion of this being in the gas belt. He also owns a fine opera house in Union City, Indiana. The Stotler block, of Eaton, one of the most valuable properties of the city, was erected by him in 1896, and in addition he also owns much other valuable property and has other satisfactory investments. He inherited about three thousand dollars, but his vast possessions aside from this have been acquired entirely through his own efforts.

Mr. Stotler has been twice married. He first wedded Sarah Halderman, their mar-

riage taking place in 1857. They lived together until 1861, and two children were born to them, John H. and Sallie E., but the latter died at the age of fourteen years, as the result of an accident in her father's mill. John H. is a physician of New York city, though not engaged in active practice at the present time. He has traveled very extensively. For thirty-six years Mr. Stotler lived a widower and was then married, on the 26th of April, 1899, to Mrs. Hattie Bonner, a lady of refinement and education. She was the widow of David Bonner and had four children by her former marriage.

Mr. Stotler has been a life-long Democrat but has never sought or held office. He has been a member of the Masonic fraternity since 1851, joining that organization just after his return from California. He takes great interest in the craft and is still active in its work, belonging to Bolivar Lodge, of Eaton. He is one of the best business men of Preble county. A man of distinctive ability and one whose character is above a shadow of reproach, he has been faithful to the highest positions in which he has been called upon to serve and is widely known and respected by all who have in any way been familiar with his honorable and useful career.

HON. ANDREW L. HARRIS.

An enumeration of those men of the present generation who have won honor and public recognition for themselves, and at the same time have honored the state to which they belong, would be incomplete were there failure to make prominent reference to the one whose name initiates this paragraph. He holds distinct precedence as an eminent lawyer and statesman, as a



Truly yours
Andrew L Harris

man of high scholarly attainments, a valiant and patriotic soldier; and his knowledge of the industrial interests is scarcely equaled throughout the length of the land. In every relation of life he has borne himself with such dignity and honor as to gain the respect of all. He has been, and is, distinctively a man of affairs and one who has wielded a wide influence. A strong mentality, invincible courage and a most determined individuality have so entered into his life as to render him a natural leader of men and a director of opinion. Prominent in the affairs of state and nation, his influence and reputation are by no means limited by the confines of his native state, and yet no history of Preble county would be complete without the record of his career, for it is here that he has spent almost his entire life. While respected and honored throughout Ohio and in Washington city, where he is well known, he has in Preble county the warm friendship of all those with whom he has had connection, and no man is more widely known in the county than he.

Andrew Lintner Harris was born in Butler county, Ohio, November 17, 1835, and was reared on a farm in Dixon township, Preble county. His grandfather, Joseph Harris, was a native of the Emerald Isle, and in 1797 crossed the Atlantic to America, taking up his abode in Cincinnati. Soon after the close of the war of 1812 he removed to Butler county, Ohio. His son, Benjamin Harris, the father of our subject, was born in Cincinnati, March 3, 1803, and was married on the 3d of April, 1829, to Miss Nancy Lintner, of Butler county. He made farming his life work, and was one of the intelligent, progressive, prominent and useful citizens of the community. In his family were seven children, of whom our

subject is the only survivor. The father of these children passed away in 1872, and the mother's death occurred in 1891.

Colonel Harris spent his early boyhood days upon the home farm, and through the summer months assisted in the work of field and meadow, while in the winter season he pursued his studies in the district school. His early educational privileges, however, were supplemented by a course in Miami University. While he was very young his father removed to Butler county and purchased the Henry Bristol farm in Dixon township. It was thereon that Colonel Harris, of this review, was reared. During his early manhood he took up the study of law, pursuing his reading in the office and under the direction of the firm of Thompson & Harris, of Eaton; but before he was admitted to the bar the civil war was inaugurated and he put aside all personal considerations and joined the army. The hydra-headed monster of the rebellion appeared in the south, an attempt being made to overthrow the Union, but when the tocsin of war was sounded men came from the fields, the offices, the work-shops and the counting-rooms to offer their services and to aid in maintaining the supremacy of the national government.

Hardly had the smoke from Fort Sumter cleared away when, in April, 1861, Mr. Harris "donned the blue," becoming a member of the Twentieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry for three months' service. Before going to the front he was made second lieutenant of Company C, and the following August was mustered out with the rank of captain. In October of the same year he recruited Company C, of the Seventy-fifth Ohio Infantry, and was commissioned its captain on the 9th of November, 1861. At

the battle of McDowell, West Virginia, which was said to be the bloodiest battle of the war for the number of troops engaged, he was quite seriously wounded. Later he participated in the engagement at Cedar Mountain, and in the second battle of Bull Run. The colors of the regiment were hit ninety times, but never once did the members of the Seventy-fifth Ohio show fear, even though in the hottest of the battle. On the 12th of January, 1863, Mr. Harris was made major, and in the terrible engagement at Chancellorsville the regiment did gallant service. The colonel was killed and Mr. Harris was then promoted to the position. On the 3d of May, 1863, at the battle of Gettysburg, he had command of the Second Brigade of the First Division of the Eleventh Corps and distinguished himself by a daring charge. His command was under a hot fire for three days, and was the first to enter the city after the battle. The Seventy-fifth lost heavily, and her colonel was badly wounded. On the 18th of August the Ohio Brigade was placed in the trenches of Morris Island, and there remained until the fall of Forts Wagner and Gregg on the 7th of September. On the night of the 6th Colonel Harris, with nine hundred selected men, were detailed to make the assault on the sea front, with instructions to march against the works at daybreak; but the enemy, observing the operations, abandoned the fort. In February, 1864, Colonel Harris was placed in command of Fort Wagner and later his regiment was sent to Jacksonville, Florida, where it was mounted, doing gallant cavalry service from that time until mustered out. In May, 1864, the Colonel went to head-waters of the St. John and Kissinee rivers and destroyed a large amount of cotton and other Confederate stores, also cap-

turing five thousand head of beef cattle, and all without the loss of a single man. On the 14th of August Colonel Harris was imprudently sent by General Hatch on an expedition to the rear of the enemy with only two hundred men. He obeyed orders and took a few prisoners, but was met by a large force and was compelled to ride night and day to keep out of the hands of the enemy. On the morning of the 17th he halted at Gainesville to rest, supposing himself to be temporarily secure, but was soon attacked by fourteen hundred men. As retreat was out of the question, he either had to cut his way out or surrender. The odds were seven to one, but, desperate as was the attempt, he succeeded in getting away with one-half of his little band. Colonel Harris was a most brave, fearless and gallant officer. He took every precaution to save his men, yet when duty called he never faltered, and again and again his regiment was in the thickest of the fight, where his own valor and daring inspired and encouraged his followers. He was mustered out of the service as colonel of the Seventy-fifth Ohio on the 15th of January, 1865, and on the 13th of March was brevetted brigadier-general for gallant conduct on the field of battle.

At the close of the war, Colonel Harris returned to his farm in Preble county, but wounds he had received disabled him for performing manual labor and he continued preparing for the bar, being admitted to practice by the district court of the county in 1865. He continued an active member of the legal profession until 1875, and won distinction as a leading member of the Preble county bar. He was connected with much important litigation and displayed marked ability in handling intricate problems in jurisprudence. In the fall of 1865 he was

elected to the state senate, representing Preble and Montgomery counties in the fifty-seventh general assembly for two years. Later he served in the house of representatives in the sixty-seventh and sixty-eighth general assemblies. During his service in the legislature he was on some of the most important committees in both branches and richly merited the high laurels which he won. He gave close and earnest study to the questions which came up for consideration, and his earnest investigation and mature judgment made him a value member of the legislature. He labored earnestly in support of every movement and measure which he believed would prove of public benefit, and the result has shown the wisdom of many of his acts. He continued his law practice in partnership with Robert Miller until January, 1876, when, having been elected to the office of probate judge of Preble county in October, 1875, the partnership was dissolved in order that he might enter upon his judicial duties. In 1878 he was re-elected and proved a most faithful and capable officer.

Still higher official honors awaited him, for in 1891 he became the choice of the Republican convention for the office of lieutenant-governor on the ticket with William McKinley. He was re-elected in 1893, a fact which indicates that his course was commendable and satisfactory to the public. He has the statesman's grasp of affairs and his political actions are the result of earnest investigation and careful study. He has given much attention to the labor conditions, and probably in the country there are few men better informed on industrial conditions than Colonel Harris. This fact was recognized by President McKinley, who in September, 1898, appointed Colonel Harris as one of the members of the national

industrial commission, with headquarters at Washington, D. C. This position he has since creditably filled, and is recognized as one of the best informed men on industrial questions in that body, which is composed of five senators and five representatives and nine members appointed by the president at large. This body is organized after the plan of the British Royal Commission and institutes inquiries in regard to immigration, agriculture, transportation, labor and general business matters in order that the country may have accurate and authentic knowledge concerning all these important questions, and more particularly that the legislative body of the nation shall be informed thereon. He is at the head of the sub-commission on agriculture and agricultural labor. The work of this commission includes the collection of data concerning the labor conditions and advantages to be secured to all who are in any way connected with agricultural work. Through the topical plan of inquiry, information is solicited from all parts of the country so that complete statistics may be made concerning the condition of labor, the wages and methods of payment, the crop-sharing, partnership, tenantry, immigration and education, the comparative earnings invested in agriculture, the present condition of agriculturists, the annual production, the cost of production and transportation, the prices paid in local markets and remedial legislation as to existing federal and state laws touching agricultural interests. Each one of these subjects is subdivided and thus information is gained concerning every possible question bearing upon agriculture. That the work is one of the utmost importance no one will deny, and President McKinley, on account of personal and close relations with Colonel Harris, well under-

stood his ability to perform the task which he assigned to him in appointing him a member of the commission. Colonel Harris' knowledge of agriculture is of a personal as well as statistical character, for throughout his life he has been identified with farming interests and today is the owner of considerable valuable land in Preble county, which is cultivated under his immediate supervision. In politics he has always been a staunch Republican since casting his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln in 1860, and is able to uphold his political position by intelligent and comprehensive argument.

On the 17th of October, 1865, Colonel Harris was united in marriage to Miss Caroline, a daughter of Eli Conger, and they now have one son, Walter C., who was graduated in the collegiate department of the Miami University, and also took an electrical course in the Ohio State University at Columbus. He was employed as an electrician in the World's Columbian Exposition, and is now an artist and photographer on the New York Herald. He is a very enterprising and energetic young man whose qualities insure success in life.

Colonel Harris retains his interest in military affairs through his connection with the Grand Army of the Republic and the Loyal Legion. He is a cultivated, polished gentleman whose position in life is due no less to his marked social qualities and admirable personal characteristics than to his learning and ability. He has long been a leader in thought and action in the political life of his state, and while he has enjoyed honors and triumphs in his public career he has in private life gained that warm personal regard which arises from true nobility of character, deference to the opinions of others, kind-

ness and congeniality. He has inscribed his name high on the roll of fame, yet is a very approachable, cordial gentleman.

JONAS MARKEY.

Jonas Markey was born in Washington township, September 5, 1851. His father, Christian Markey, was a native of Maryland, his birth having occurred in Carroll county, that state, on the 22d of June, 1826. When a youth of thirteen years he accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio, settling in Preble county. His grandfather was Amos Markey, who was born at Gunpowder Falls, Maryland, about 1789, and was reared to manhood in that locality. He served as a soldier in the war of 1812 and afterward was married and resided upon the old family homestead until after the birth of two of his children, when he removed to Carroll county, Maryland, there making his home until the spring of 1839, when he came with his family to the Buckeye state, locating just east of Lexington, in Twin township, Preble county. There he purchased two hundred and eighty acres of land, devoting his energies to agricultural pursuits. He was a member of the German Baptist church and was a highly esteemed citizen. His death occurred in 1844. His father was Jacob Markey, a prominent farmer of Gunpowder Falls, Maryland, where he spent his entire life.

The paternal grandmother, Mrs. Jane (Eby) Markey, was born in Gunpowder Falls, November 6, 1802, and died September 22, 1887. She was twice married. After the death of her first husband, Mr. Markey, she was married, in 1853, to John Harter. By her first union she had eight children, five of whom are still living,

namely: John H., Joseph and Susan, the wife of Frank Fudge, all of Preble county; Amos, of Johnson county, Missouri; and Nathaniel, of Montgomery county, Ohio. Mrs. Markey was a daughter of Christian and Susanna (McDonald) Eby. Her father was born in Virginia, in 1777, of German parentage, and her mother was born in Pennsylvania, in 1782. She was of English lineage, her parents having emigrated from England to America some time prior to her birth. After her marriage to Christian Eby she accompanied her husband to Maryland and for a number of years they made their home at Gunpowder Falls, where they reared their twelve children. Later Mr. Eby emigrated to Montgomery county, Ohio, settling at the junction of Twin creek and Lewis river, on the farm where his grandson, James Eby, now makes his home. A short time prior to his death he removed to Lanier township, Preble county, where his last days were passed. Both he and his wife were members of the German Baptist church and were people of the highest respectability.

Christian Markey, the father of our subject, was a youth of thirteen years when he accompanied his parents to Ohio, locating in Preble county, where he was reared to manhood and married Miss Anna Crumbaker. She was born in Augusta county, Virginia, in 1830, and was a little maiden of only three summers when she was brought to Preble county by her parents, Jonas and Elizabeth (Leedy) Crumbaker. They located three miles southwest of Eaton, on the Dayton and Richmond pike, and there remained until called to the home beyond. After his marriage Christian Markey began farming on a tract of land of eighty acres in Lanier township, two miles south of West

Alexandria. He purchased the property and made it his home for two years, after which he bought a quarter section three and a half miles northwest of Eaton, in Washington township, continuing its cultivation until 1858. He then purchased and removed to another farm of one hundred and sixty acres at New Hope Station, there residing until his death, which occurred in December, 1897. He survived his wife a number of years, for she passed away in 1873. They were both members of the German Baptist church and enjoyed the high regard of a large circle of friends. Mr. Markey was a very successful farmer, owning at one time about thirteen hundred acres of land. He gave to each of his children a good start in life, and at his death left a very large property. His property was won entirely through the legitimate channels of business, resulting from his industry, perseverance and capable management. For many years he served as a member of the board of education and his co-operation and aid were very freely given to movements and measures which were calculated to prove of general good. By his marriage to Anna Crumbaker he had twelve children, of whom seven are living, namely: Jane, the wife of R. J. W. Ozias, of Twin township; Jonas, the subject of this review; Emma, wife of S. A. Brower, of Dixon township, Preble county; Pierce, a farmer of Darke county, Ohio; John C., a farmer of New Hope, Preble county; Christian K., an agriculturist of Preble county; and Clara, who is unmarried and resides with her brother, John Markey, on the home place. After the death of his first wife Mr. Markey was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Zelphy A. Barnhart, *nee* Bond. They had three children, of whom two are living: Edward B., a farmer of

Jackson township, and Amos, who is now attending school in West Alexandria.

In taking up the personal history of Jonas Markey, we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in Preble county. His boyhood days were passed under the parental roof, and in the country schools he acquired his education, which was supplemented by a course in the Northern Indiana Normal School at Valparaiso. At the age of twenty-one he engaged in farming, renting one of his father's farms for two years. It was in that way that he gained the money which enabled him to pursue his normal course. When his education was completed he returned to his native county and worked by the month as a farm hand for a year. After his marriage he located on his present farm, which he rented for three years and then by purchase became the owner of three hundred and twenty acres. He has since extended the boundaries of his place until it comprises five hundred and sixty acres, being one of the extensive and valuable farms of Jackson township. Although he has not made a specialty of stock-raising, it has been one of his principal sources of income, and there can always be found upon his place good grades of horses, cattle and hogs.

In business he has attained a high degree of success and is widely recognized as one of the leading farmers of the community. Both he and his wife have a large circle of friends in the county and their home is noted for its gracious hospitality.

On the 26th of December, 1876, Mr. Markey was united in marriage to Miss Julia Bloomfield, a native of Washington township and a daughter of Reuben and Amanda (Harbinson) Bloomfield. They now have two children, Josie and Hugh. The latter

became a student in the Miami University and had entered upon his second year there when death claimed him. About the 1st of October he returned from the university to his home ill with typhoid fever, and after two weeks passed away he died, October 18, 1900, at the age of nineteen years, seven months and nine days. The funeral services were held the following Sunday and the concourse of people gathered on such an occasion has hardly been outnumbered in the history of the county. Quite a number of the university boys were present, with three of the faculty, to pay the last tribute of respect to a former comrade. The Rev. Stovenour and the Rev. Shoot conducted the services at the home and the remains were interred in Mound Hill cemetery, near Eaton. Perhaps no better estimate of his life and character can be given than to append a notice of his death which appeared in one of the local papers and was written by one who had known him well from early boyhood. The writer said:

• "In his childhood he was gentle and kind, and as he blossomed into manhood the same character marked his life. In school he was studious and his countenance was continual sunshine, which won the respect and esteem of his teachers and schoolmates. At the age of seventeen he graduated from the Jackson township high school with honors, and in the autumn of 1898 he entered the Miami University, where he soon won the love of pupils and faculty by his amiable manner. The president of the university, once being asked by the writer concerning our friend Hugh, gave his true character when he said, 'Everybody who loves what is grand and noble, loves Hugh Markey.' This high aim, linked with love for all and kindness to all, were the traits which made

everybody his friend. At home he seemed to live only to obey the wishes of his parents and friends, and during all his life he was never known to disregard an entreaty of his parents. During his short sickness he never complained or murmured, but humbly submitted to the will of one who is able to save, and in his care has fallen asleep to waken in the heavenly home, there to await and welcome his friends when their summons shall come.

Sleep on, true heart, and slumber well,
And rest from sorrow's dreary spell.
No more thy tears of grief shall flow,
No more thou'lt feel earth's bitter woe,
But pure and calm and bright and strong
Thy happy years shall glide along.

Sleep soft, dear heart, thy gentle life
Has passed the boundary line of strife,
And, like a flower crushed in its prime,
Leaves fragrant memories behind.
Adown the years thy love will bear
Remembrance of the life so fair.

Sleep on, O, gentle heart and sweet,
The passage of thy years so fleet,
Eternity's unbroken band
Shall circle thee with golden strand
And happy ages roll along
In floods of glad angelic song.

ALBERT HAWLEY, M. D.

Dr. Albert Hawley, an old and prominent physician of Preble county whose home is on section 36, Jefferson township, was born January 22, 1822, in Warren county, this state, on the hills about a quarter of a mile from the Little Miami river, in Deerfield township, twenty-six miles from Cincinnati, and is of English and Irish descent. His paternal grandfather was probably born in England and married in Connecticut. His father, Joel Hawley, was a native of Connecticut and a farmer and local preacher of the Methodist Episcopal church. He wed-

ded Mary Dill, who was born and reared in New York, but when young came to Ohio, where she died at about the age of fifty-five years and he passed away at the age of sixty. They were the parents of five sons, all of whom grew to manhood, and three are now living, our subject being the second in order of birth. Andrew is a physician of College Corner, Butler county, Ohio, living on the line between this state and Indiana, and Harvey is a farmer of Clermont county, Ohio.

Dr. Hawley, of this review, spent the first seventeen years of his life in his native county, and acquired his early education in a primitive log school house in Deerfield township. He then accompanied his parents on their removal to Clermont county, where he continued his studies for a time, remaining with his father until twenty years of age. He then commenced the study of medicine with his uncle, Dr. William Hawley, of Oxford, Ohio, and was with him about three years. In 1846 he opened an office in Gettysburg, Preble county, where he still resides. For half a century he was actively engaged in practice, and met with marked success in his chosen calling, but since 1896 has lived retired. He attended lectures at the Medical College of Ohio, and was very successful in the treatment of cholera cases during two epidemics of that dread disease.

In 1848 Dr. Hawley married Miss Mary Potterfield, who died in less than a year after their marriage, and in 1850 he wedded Miss Elizabeth M. Watt, who was born near New Paris, Preble county, and died in 1895. By the second union he had five children: Dr. Crittenden C. A. Hawley, a physician of Gettysburg; Elizabeth, the wife of B. F. Wehrly, of Richmond, Indiana; Dr. Ashley C., who died in Eaton; William A., a phar-

macist of Union City, Indiana, and James Grant, a farmer, who is living at home with his father. All were born in Jefferson township, Preble county, and were given good school privileges.

The Doctor is one of the old residents of the county, and has watched with interest its wonderful development and progress. On locating here he had but one suit of clothes and five dollars in money, but he soon built up a large and lucrative practice, which extended over a wide range of territory in those early days, and in visiting his patients he rode horseback over roads which would now seem impassable. He steadily prospered in his new home, and is to-day the owner of two hundred acres of valuable land, from which he has cleared away the timber and which he has placed in a high state of cultivation. Politically he is a staunch supporter of the Republican party and its principles, and is a strong temperance man, having taken an active interest in organizing the first temperance lodge in Gettysburg. For forty years he has been an earnest and consistent member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and he is honored and respected by a large circle of friends and acquaintances who appreciate his sterling worth and many excellencies of character.

THEODORE F. BROWER.

Theodore F. Brower is a self-made man who started upon his business career without capital, but is to-day the possessor of a comfortable competence as the result of his well-directed and honorable efforts. He is now extensively engaged in the livery business, having a liberal patronage.

Born in Lanier township, Preble county, on the 15th of May, 1843, Mr. Brower is a

son of Henry and Catherine (Nevinger) Brower. His father also was born in Lanier township, about 1821, and the grandfather was one of the earliest settlers of this section of the state. Upon the old home farm Henry Brower was reared, and having arrived at years of maturity he married Miss Nevinger. He then took up his abode upon a farm adjoining his father's land, and throughout his life, covering a period of seventy years, he remained a resident of Preble county, his home being in Lanier and Twin townships. His death occurred in 1891, and the community thereby lost one of its valued citizens. In early life he was a Whig and later was a supporter of the Republican party. His wife was a native of Pennsylvania and came to Ohio during her childhood, her parents locating in Montgomery county, whence they removed to West Alexandria. There the grandfather opened and conducted a hotel in the early days of the town, but later returned to Montgomery county, where he resided up to the time of his death. Mr. and Mrs. Brower became the parents of thirteen children, ten of whom are living, namely: Sarah J., the widow of James Bennett, of Eaton, Ohio; Albert, a farmer of Lanier township; Theodore F., our subject; Joseph, who is living in Farmersville, Montgomery county, where he is engaged in the livery business; Alice, the wife of William Kuntz, of Lanier township; Andrew, a farmer of Twin township; William, who is also living in Twin township; Oscar, a resident farmer of Lanier township; Charlie, who is carrying on agricultural pursuits near Anderson, Indiana, and Minnie E., wife of Leander Baker, of Dayton. Two children died in childhood, and George Brower, one of the children, was killed at the battle of Nashville, while serving in the civil war.

Mr. Brower, whose name introduces this review, spent the first eighteen years of his life on the home farm, and the labors and duties of the field became familiar to him through actual experience. In June, 1862, he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting as a member of Company H, Ninety-third Ohio Infantry. He served as a private and participated in many important engagements, including the battles of Stone River, Perryville, Chickamauga, Chattanooga, Resaca and Mission Ridge, and the almost continuous fighting of the Atlanta campaign. He was in the battles of Pulaski and of Nashville. He was captured at Chickamauga on Saturday, but the following day made his escape and rejoined his regiment. At the battle of Resaca he was wounded and was confined in the hospital at Bridgeport, Alabama, for three weeks, when he again rejoined his regiment. Always found at his post of duty, he was true and loyal to the cause, and with an honorable military career he returned to his home, after being mustered out at Nashville, in June, 1865.

On again reaching Ohio Mr. Brower resumed farming. He was married in 1866, to Miss Catherine Black, and to them has been born a daughter, Ella, now the wife of William Fouts, a proprietor, with his brother, of a woolen mill of Lanier township. They resided upon the farm for six years, after which Mr. Brower engaged in the sewing machine business for a similar period. He then began selling trees, but as that business kept him so much from his home and family he abandoned it and in 1884 entered the employ of Coffman & Burtner, liverymen, with whom he remained for eight years. In 1893 he purchased the business, assuming a heavy indebtedness,

but in the ensuing three years he managed to pay off all this, and at the same time saved capital sufficient to enable him to erect a residence property and to build a commodious livery barn. The keynote of his success has been untiring industry. He has not been afraid of hard work and his untiring labor has brought to him the success for which he strove. His honorable business methods have secured to him a liberal patronage, and he now enjoys a good income from the rental of his teams and rigs.

In 1871 Mr. Brower was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife. Later he married Miss Belle Dininger, a native of West Alexandria and a daughter of John Dininger, one of the pioneer blacksmiths of the town. Their union has been blessed with three children: Carrie Alice; John R., who is interested with his father in the livery business; and Raymond T. Mr. Brower is a member of O'Kane Post, G. A. R., of Eaton. In politics he gives his support to the Republican party where questions of state and national importance are involved, but at local elections, where only the fitness of the candidates is to be taken into consideration, he votes for the men whom he regards as best qualified for office. His wife and daughter are members of the Methodist church and to its support he contributes liberally. He certainly deserves great credit for his success in life, and his example should serve to encourage others who must enter upon a business career without wealth, influential friends or special advantages to aid them.

JOEL S. STEWARD.

Joel S. Steward is a prominent factor in the business life of Winchester, and his activity in connection with the industrial and

commercial interests has not only been a financial benefit to himself but has also been of material improvement to the city through the promotion of commercial activity whereon depends all the progress and prosperity of a community. Mr. Steward was born in Darke county, Ohio, May 7, 1843. His father, William Steward, was born in Maryland on Christmas day of 1812, and was a son of John Steward, who was of Scotch parentage. The grandfather was one of the first men who ran a notion-peddler's wagon in Maryland. He was probably born in Baltimore, and was a son of this Scotchman, for the great-grandfather of our subject emigrated to the new world on account of his dislike to certain measures agreed upon by the lords of Scotland and the English diplomats. Among the early ancestors of our subject were Revolutionary patriots. John Steward, the grandfather, married Miss May Link, and they reared a family of three sons and one daughter, all of whom were married and reared families of their own and are now deceased. They were William, the father of our subject; Alexander, who went to Illinois as a teamster in the '50s, and one of his sons still lives in Champaign county, that state; and John, who conducted a flouring mill in Miami county.

William Steward also was a representative of the same industry. Having arrived at years of maturity he married Miss Isabelle McSherry, of Pennsylvania, who lived near the Maryland line. In that locality the parents of our subject were married, in 1838, and later came to Preble county, Ohio, with their first born, a daughter, Elizabeth, who became the wife of Tunis Baird, and died in Kentucky, when about sixty-three years of age, leaving a married daugh-

ter. In the family of William Steward and his wife were eleven children, eight of whom reached adult age, including three sons and five daughters. Virginia is the wife of William H. McClure, of Greeley, Kansas, and has five children. Mary is the wife of William Thompson, of eastern Illinois, and has two sons and a daughter. Joel S. is the next of the family. Eva B. is engaged in dress-making in Euphemia, Preble county. A. J. is a widower living in Kansas with two sons and one daughter. John A. served in the civil war and died at Lewisburg, Virginia, while in the service at the age of seventeen years. Minerva is a widow living in Greeley, Kansas, and has a daughter and son, and Abbie, who became the wife of Frederick Seigle and died in early womanhood, at the birth of her son, who is living in Greeley, Kansas. The mother of these children died June 28, 1885, at the age of sixty-three years, and the father survived her two years. He left at his death a small estate, for he had suffered heavy loss in 1873, owing to the fall in wheat. In his later life he sold his property and spent his last days upon a forty-acre farm.

Joel Steward, whose name introduces this review, obtained his education in the common schools, where he pursued his studies until sixteen years of age. He then put aside his text books and entered upon the practical duties of life in his father's flouring and saw mill in Preble county. He possessed much natural mechanical ability and soon mastered the business in all of its branches, and from 1864 to 1866 he conducted Messrs. Werts & Arnold's flouring mill at West Baltimore; then he bought Mr. Arnold's interest and remained several years as a partner with Mr. Werts, and then sold his interest to Mr. Werts and removed to

Brookville in Montgomery county, but returned to Winchester, Preble county, in the fall of 1881. His business affairs have been earnestly and systematically prosecuted and from an humble position he has worked his way steadily upward until he is now accounted one of the substantial citizens of the community. He has two farms in this neighborhood and other small tracts of land elsewhere. His sawmill was located upon a plat of ground of four and a half acres. He lived upon one of these farms for a year, but during the greater part of that time made his home in Winchester, where he is successfully engaged in the manufacture and sale of lumber. Mr. Steward is also engaged in farming and stock raising, making a specialty of the breeding of fashionably bred trotting horses. He has a great love for the noble steed, is an excellent judge of horses and has a broad and comprehensive knowledge of blooded stock. He has bred, raised and sold some very high-class horses and now owns some of the best in the United States, and conducts the best appointed breeding farm in the county, his horses always asserting themselves in the speed and show rings.

On the 3d of July, 1864, Mr. Steward was married to Miss Rachel Frame, who was born in Preble county in 1841, a daughter of Silas and Polly (Strader) Frame. The only child of this marriage is Thomas Jefferson, who is now twenty-six years of age. He was married February 25, 1900, to Lucille Conley, of Eaton. Mr. Steward is a Master Mason in his social relations, and in politics is independent. He takes an active interest in township and county affairs and while residing in Montgomery county was the mayor of Brookville. When twenty-eight years of age and again when thirty-

eight he was elected a justice of the peace of Preble county and discharged his duties with marked promptness and fidelity. In 1882 he was chosen a township trustee. Prior to 1892 he was in politics a supporter of Democracy. He is a man of sterling worth, capable in business, thoroughly reliable, courteous and accommodating, and his high standing in business circles is well merited.

ISAAC N. WELSH, D. D. S.

The late Dr. Isaac Newton Welsh, the eldest son of Dr. James B. and Eva B. (Garber) Welsh, was born January 29, 1843, on a farm in Israel township, Preble county, Ohio. His father, of whom extended mention is made elsewhere in this volume, was a school teacher in early life and among other places taught at College Corner; but in the spring of 1849, having resolved to put into immediate execution his plan of studying medicine, located near Fairfield, Franklin county, Indiana, and later took up his abode in the village, where he studied medicine under the guidance of Dr. James H. Elliott. This gave the subject of this memoir the opportunity of attending the village school and exploring the hills of the romantic region around, as well as to play along the banks of the White river. At that early day he proved himself to be a close student and lover of nature. Having finished his studies under Dr. Elliott, his father removed to Falmouth, Rush county, Indiana, where the family remained for six years.

Isaac N. Welsh acquired his elementary education by attending the district and village schools. While in Falmouth he became the possessor of a violin and learned to play with ability most of the old-fashioned tunes then well known. In March, 1857, the fa-

ther decided to return to Preble county, Ohio, and purchased the old Garber homestead in Israel township. Thus again Isaac found himself on the banks of the Little Four Mile, but in September of the same year the father sold the farm and with his family removed to Cincinnati to complete his medical education. Here the parents were for a while undecided as to what course of training and study they wished to give their son. He certainly possessed musical talent, and giving him a musical education in violin playing was seriously considered, but the opportunity for improving his literary education was too good to be lost, so he spent his time within the schoolroom and reluctantly gave up the idea of being a violinist. Thereby his native county gained one of the finest dentists it has ever known. In 1858 Dr. Welsh brought his family to Eaton, where Isaac completed his education, showing special aptitude in his studies. He was also one of the best vocalists in the school, being passionately fond of music. Determining to make the practice of dentistry his profession he studied under Dr. Tuttle, passed a splendid examination and received his diploma. His success in his profession was an indication of his superior skill and ability. He soon won first rank among the representatives of his calling in this part of the state.

At the time of the civil war Dr. Welsh volunteered as a private in Company H, Eighty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving for four months, and was mustered out at Delaware, February 10, 1863. He then resumed his studies, preparing for a profession in which he gained enviable distinction.

On the 28th of January, 1868, the Doctor married Miss Martha J. Kendelberger. This proved to be a very happy marriage,

and they lived together for thirty-two years, four months and eighteen days, when death separated them. To them were born two sons: Charles S., who for the past twelve years has represented the Indiana Dental Supply Company, of Indianapolis, and Frank F., who is one of Eaton's enterprising young business men. In 1873 the Doctor with his family located at Kokomo, Indiana, and during their sojourn of five years there he held the responsible position of cashier in the banking house of Walker, Welsh & Co. In 1878 he returned to Eaton and resumed the practice of dentistry. He and his son, Frank F., established the St. Clair Tile Works, of Eaton, and he was an active factor in business circles. Of all measures intended for the improvement of the city he was an ardent supporter.

About two years before his death he suffered an attack of la grippe, and from that time until the date of his demise his family closely watched the disease that so persistently baffled the skill of the best physicians. With marked devotion to his duty as a practitioner he went to his office many days when he should have remained at home in bed, and not until the 22d of December, 1899, did he finally abandon office work. Thus the familiar form that had been seen on the streets day after day for years with a smile and kind word for every one was seen no more. With heroism, uncomplaining and unfaltering courage he met the fate which ended his conflicts, his triumphs and his pleasures here. On Saturday evening, June 16, 1900, out upon the shoreless sea of eternity his bark drifted. He was then fifty-seven years, four months and seventeen days of age. His was a noble life, for his every purpose and every object was to promote the welfare of his family and the

community in which he lived. He was a faithful and devoted husband, an affectionate father and an honest and true friend.

FRANK F. WELSH.

Frank Forest Welsh is a leading representative of the industrial interests of Eaton and is to-day one of the prominent business men of the city, whose enterprising efforts have not only been a benefit to him but have also materially advanced the welfare and prosperity of the community by promoting commercial activity. He is one of Eaton's native sons, his birth having occurred on the 16th of October, 1870. His father was Dr. Isaac N. Welsh, of whom mention is made above. His preliminary education was acquired in the schools of Eaton, and he was graduated in the high school in the class of 1889. Subsequently he entered the university at Akron, Ohio, where he pursued the studies for three years and then matriculated in the senior class of the University of Pennsylvania. With a broad and comprehensive education that well fitted him for life's practical and responsible duties, he returned to Eaton in 1892 and entered upon his business career in association with his father, assuming the management of the affairs of the St. Clair Tile Company, one of the leading and successful concerns of the city. Upon the death of his father, the son passed into the full control of the business. He manufactures drain tile in sizes from three to eighteen inches, and also deals in chimney pipe, paving brick, flue tiling, fire brick and fire clay. He also has an extensive coal and wood yard, which with the tile factory is located on Walnut street, adjoining the railroad, thus furnishing excellent facilities for shipping. Here he also carries a large amount of cement, plaster, lime and hair.

Mr. Welsh's capable management of the business is indicated by the excellent success which attends the enterprise. While a large force of workmen are employed and while faithfulness in the performance of duty is required and system prevails, there is nothing of the overbearing taskmaster in him; on the other hand he is quick to note merit in an employe, and as opportunity presents, rewards him by promotion. The business policy which he has always followed has been most commendable. He is methodical, careful and thorough, requiring that the strictest honesty must prevail in his establishment, which course has won him the respect of his business associates and all with whom he has had dealings.

Mr. Welsh has been twice married. He first wedded Miss Emma Danford, of Eaton, She died in October, 1894, and on the 21st of September, 1898, Mr. Welsh married Miss Clarissa Rossman, of Eaton. They now have one child, James. Their home is noted for its gracious hospitality, which is enjoyed by a very extensive circle of friends. In his political affiliations Mr. Welsh is a stalwart Republican and on that ticket was elected a member of the city council in April, 1899. He is wide-awake business man, alive to the best interests of Eaton, and his course as a public official has already proved of benefit to the city of nativity. His business career has been one of marked advancement and of irreproachable honor and his standing in commercial circles in Eaton is deservedly high.

JAMES A. FLORY.

This thrifty and successful agriculturist, residing on section 24, Harrison township, Preble county, Ohio, was born July 17, 1846,

in Jefferson township, Montgomery county, this state, and is a son of Henry Flory, a native of the same county, born near Trotwood. His father was a cooper by trade, but during the latter part of his life followed farming. On obtaining his majority he became identified with the Democratic party, but in 1860 became a Republican, and continued to affiliate with that party until his death. In religious faith he was a Dunkard. He died at the age of forty-seven years, honored and respected by all who knew him. His ancestors were originally from Pennsylvania. In Hagerstown, Indiana, he married Catherine Heffley, a native of that place, and immediately after his marriage brought his bride to the home he had prepared for her in Jefferson township, Montgomery county, Ohio. She is still living, at the age of seventy-three years, and now resides at No. 911 West Third street, Dayton, Ohio. To them were born three children, of whom our subject is the oldest; Mary E. is the wife of James Wallace, a retired hardware merchant of Arcanum, Darke county, Ohio; and Albert M., who married Kate Burns, and is engaged in the hardware business in Arcanum.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were passed upon the home farm. He was not quite fifteen years of age when the civil war broke out, but on the 1st of September, 1861, he enlisted in Company H, Fourth Ohio Cavalry, being the youngest soldier in the regiment. With that command he participated in its numerous engagements and marches, the regiment having the advance of General Mitchell's division of Buell's army through Kentucky, Tennessee and Alabama, and again in September, 1862, had the advance in driving Bragg from Kentucky, and was taken prisoner at the

battle of Lexington, Kentucky. He was paroled in October, 1862, and re-enlisted as a private in Company G, Sixty-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he took part in the siege of Atlanta, the march to the sea, the battles of Bentonville, etc., North Carolina, remaining with Sherman's command until the close of the war, and was in the great review at Washington, May 22 and 23, 1865. He was never off duty with the exception of four weeks when ill. After four long years of faithful and arduous service, he was honorably discharged at Louisville, Kentucky, July 17, 1865, and returned to his home in Montgomery county, Ohio.

In 1863 Mr. Flory was united in marriage with Miss Tracy A. Hoover, who died in 1868, and on the 2d of July, 1872, he wedded Miss Margaret Brock, a native of Arcanum, Darke county, Ohio. They have five children, namely: Harry H., now a law student at Dayton; Perl, who is a private in Company E, Seventeenth United States Infantry, and is now in the Philippines; John, who assists his father in the work of the home farm, and Charles and Mary May, who are attending school. All were born in Preble county.

In 1872 Mr. Flory embarked in the nursery business near Louisburg, where he remained until 1876 and then removed to his present farm on section 24, Harrison township. It consists of seventy-five acres of land under excellent cultivation and since 1885, in connection with general farming, he has again devoted a part of his time to the nursery business and to the raising of small fruits, in all of which undertakings he has been quite successful.

Socially he is an active and prominent member of Parmelee Horn Post, No. 622, G. A. R., of Lewisburg, and has been the

quartermaster several years. He is a member of the Brethren in Christ Church, of which he is a deacon, and politically he is a Republican, having been identified with that party since casting his first presidential vote for General Grant. His loyalty is above question, being manifest in days of peace as well as in times of war, and he is honored and respected by all with whom he comes in contact either in business or social life.

JESSE STUDEBAKER.

The subject of this notice is certainly entitled to be considered not only one of the enterprising farmers of Harrison township, but also one of its respected and honored citizens. His residence is situated on section 4, where he owns and operates eighty-one acres of land, and besides this farm he has another of sixty-four acres on section 3.

Mr. Studebaker was born in Harrison township, November 7, 1838, and belongs to one of its prominent pioneer families. His paternal grandfather, Peter Studebaker, who was born in Pennsylvania, of Pennsylvania Dutch descent, was one of the early settlers of Preble county, Ohio, and here took up land from the government. The father, Jacob Studebaker, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1808, and was a young man when he came to this county. He purchased land in Harrison township for one dollar and a quarter per acre, and to the improvement and cultivation of his farm devoted his energies throughout life, dying in 1872. In that township he married Catharine Lock, a native of Maryland and a daughter of Philip Lock, who was born in the same state of German ancestry, and at an early day came to Preble county, Ohio, where he, too, entered land from the government

and improved a farm. Mrs. Studebaker was the oldest in a family of nine children, and was quite young when brought by her parents to this county. She died at the age of seventy-three years. Fifteen children were born to Jacob and Catharine (Lock) Studebaker, and all but one grew to manhood or womanhood, while thirteen are still living, some residing in Ohio, others in Illinois, Iowa, Indiana, Kansas and Washington. The ten sons are all farmers.

Of this family, Jesse Studebaker, our subject, is the fifth child and third son. He received only a very limited education, being able to attend school but two months, as his services were needed on the home farm. He remained with his parents until his marriage, which was celebrated December 1, 1861, Miss Catherine Hunt becoming his wife. She was born in Stillwater, Montgomery county, Ohio, November 10, 1841, and is the oldest in a family of ten children, four sons and six daughters, of whom nine reached adult age. Her parents were James and Elizabeth (Seybolt) Hunt, natives of Warren county, Ohio. Bazzel Hunt, the father of James Hunt and grandfather of Catherine Studebaker, was born in the state of Pennsylvania, August 4, 1787. Jane Morrow, who became the wife of Bazzel Hunt and mother of James Hunt and grandmother of Catherine Studebaker, was born in the state of Kentucky, December 25, 1797. James Hunt, Sr., the grandfather of James Hunt, Jr., and great-grandfather of Catherine Studebaker, was born in the United States in 1760, his father having emigrated from England in the year 1750. James Hunt, the father of Catherine Studebaker, was born in Montgomery county, and was raised where the military home now is, and where the springs ran out from under the

logs in the woods, October 3, 1817. Elizabeth Hunt, the mother of Catherine Studebaker, was born in Warren county, Ohio, October 2, 1822, her parents having emigrated from Germany, and were sold to pay their passage across the ocean.

After his marriage Mr. Studebaker located upon a rented farm with his father-in-law, and in the fall of 1862 removed to Darke county, where he remained one year. In the fall of 1863 he located upon his present farm on section 4, Harrison township, Preble county, and throughout his active business life has successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He is a Democrat in politics, and has served as school director, but has never been prevailed upon to accept political office. He is a member of the Grange, to which most of his children belong.

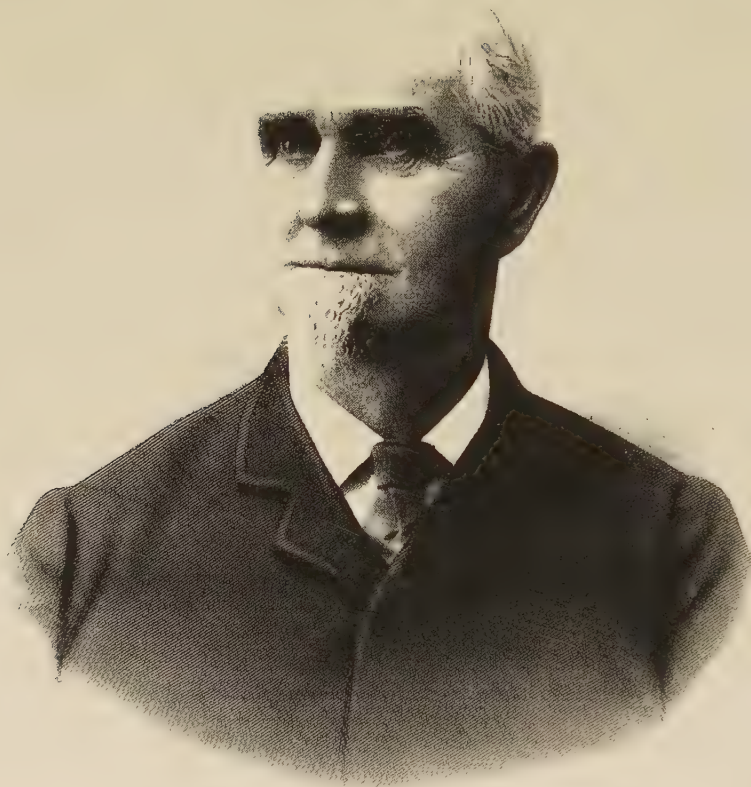
To Mr. and Mrs. Studebaker were born twelve children, seven sons and five daughters: James M. died at the age of four years. Lovina Bell married Elmer E. Riley and died in 1896, leaving three children—Allen, Russell and Nola. Emma is the wife of John Kessler, and they have two children—Jesse and Pearl. Ida is the wife of Vernando Comer, and they have four children—Ora, William, Versie and Symmie. Edward married Mary Geeting. Perry D. married Cora Hoffman and they have two daughters—Estella and Hettie B. Clara Jane died December 17, 1899. Joseph S., a graduate of the Euphemia high school, has successfully engaged in teaching for four years in Harrison township in his home district. He married Pearl M. Sodders. William O., Jesse C., Grace C. and Grover C. are all at home. All of the children were born on the present farm of our subject with the exception of James M., whose birth occurred in Darke county. The sons now carry on

the farm of their father, and the family is well and favorably known in the community where they reside.

ANDREW P. ZELLER.

This prominent old settler of Preble county, whose home is on section 34, Harrison township, is the possessor of a handsome property which now enables him to spend his declining years in the pleasurable enjoyment of his accumulations. The record of his early life is that of an active, enterprising, methodical and sagacious business man, who bent his energies to the honorable acquirement of a comfortable competence for himself and family and still superintends the operation of his farms.

Mr. Zeller was born November 22, 1824, in the southwestern part of Montgomery county, Ohio, in German township, and is a son of Andrew and Mary (Houtz) Zeller, both of German descent and natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in Berks, and the latter in Dauphin county. The paternal grandfather, who also bore the name of Andrew Zeller, was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, and came to Montgomery county, Ohio, in 1806, locating in German township, where he died at the ripe old age of eighty-four years. He served as a drummer in the Revolutionary war, and was the first bishop in the church of the United Brethren in Christ. His father came from Switzerland to the United States about 1740, settling in Berks county, Pennsylvania. Three brothers came about that time, landing at Philadelphia, one of whom remained at that city, one went to Virginia, and one went to the interior of Pennsylvania; and it is from the last mentioned that the



A. D. Zeller



Henrietta Zeller

direct paternal ancestry of our subject have sprung.

The father of our subject was fifteen years of age when, in 1806, he accompanied his parents on their removal to Montgomery county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood, and at the inglorious surrender of General Hull at Detroit during the war of 1812 with Great Britain, he received the message, in the dead of the night, to go to the front immediately for a term of six months in defense of his country and the protection of their homes, which were seriously exposed to the depredations of the savages or Indians, which order he promptly obeyed. October 20, 1814, he was married, in Montgomery county, Ohio, where he engaged in farming until October, 1831, when he removed to Germantown, and engaged in a general dry-goods business until 1834, at which time he came to Preble county and settled on a farm on section 34, Harrison township. In 1861 he removed to Euphemia, where he died, in January, 1864. In early life he joined the United Brethren church, but later held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church. He voted for Andrew Jackson and in 1840 for General William H. Harrison, but on the organization of the Republican party he joined its ranks, supporting John C. Fremont in 1856 and Abraham Lincoln in 1860. He was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him. His estimable wife died at the age of eighty-one. She was about thirteen years of age when, in 1807, she removed from her native state to Perry county, Ohio. Her father also was born in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, and was a farmer by occupation.

Our subject was the only son who grew to adult age in a family of six children, four of whom reached mature years, two sons

dying in childhood and infancy. His education was mainly acquired in the old-time log school-houses. For a time he was a student in the schools of Germantown, Montgomery county. At the age of ten he came to Preble county with his parents and upon the home farm grew to manhood. At the early age of fifteen he commenced teaching, taking charge of his first school in the winter of 1839-40 and his next in 1846-7.

On the 17th of February, 1848, Mr. Zeller was united in marriage to Miss Maria Flickinger, who was born in Butler county, Ohio, June 30, 1830, a daughter of Jacob and Hannah (Kumler) Flickinger, natives of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and the parents of fourteen children, twelve of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. Mrs. Zeller being the ninth in order of birth. Her maternal grandfather was Bishop Henry Kumler, of the United Brethren church. Her parents removed to Butler county, Ohio, in 1819, and there she was reared and educated. Of the nine children born to Mr. and Mrs. Zeller only three are now living, namely: John Jacob A., a farmer and hardware merchant of Waterman, Illinois; Samuel Theodore, a grain dealer living in Sterling, Illinois: he owns two elevators on a branch of the Chicago, Burlington & Quincy Railroad, one at Harmon and one at Walton, ten and sixteen miles east of Sterling, the capacity of which is over one hundred thousand bushels, and also one at Stone Station, on the same railroad; and Ida M., the wife of W. C. Stubbs, a physician of Celina, Ohio. The deceased are: Viola Jane, Carrie Alice, Sarah Luella, Annie Victoria, Catherine Elizabeth and Mary Linda. The two last mentioned died in infancy.

Mr. Zeller, having it in mind that a collegiate course would be of lasting benefit

to his children as a heritage, provided them with educational privileges. John Jacob A. entered Otterbein University at Westerville, Ohio, in the fall of 1864, but in the fall of 1865 he entered the Wesleyan University of Delaware, Ohio, and was a classmate of Senator Foraker. Samuel Theodore entered the Chicago University in the fall of 1871 and was there during the great fire. Viola Jane entered Wesleyan College at Cincinnati, Ohio, in the fall of 1872, and later became a student in the Otterbein University, and subsequently continued her education in a conservatory of music at Cincinnati, Ohio. Carrie Alice also entered Otterbein University in 1876. Ida Meluzena matriculated in that institution in 1880, and Sarah Luella became a student there in the fall of 1884, while Annie Victoria was afterward in the Wesleyan University at Delaware, Ohio, in the fall of 1889. Those deceased passed away during their college days.

After his marriage Mr. Zeller remained on the old home farm for one year, after which he spent five years on a farm of his own in Franklin township, Warren county, Ohio. At the end of that time, however, he returned to the old homestead in the spring of 1854, on section 34, Harrison township, which he purchased of his father and resided there until locating on his present farm on section 34, in the same township, in 1865. He has always engaged in general farming, and as success has crowned his well-directed and energetic efforts he is now the owner of five hundred and thirty acres of valuable farming land in Preble county, the cultivation of which he still superintends. At different times he has owned other lands in this locality and also property in Iowa and Nebraska. He has some valuable property

on Dearborn and State streets, Chicago, and property in Lewisburg and Euphemia, Ohio. He has also given a bonus of five hundred dollars to the Cincinnati & Northern Railroad and right of way through one of his farms as a public benefaction. He is a wide-awake, progressive business man, of sound judgment and keen discrimination, and has the confidence and respect of all with whom he comes in contact, either in business or social life.

After the annexation of Texas and the battles of Palo Alto and Resaca de la Palma, he belonged to a volunteer company of light infantry. He received the call to the front in the forenoon while he was plowing corn, being summoned to Eaton, the county seat. He immediately unhitched his horse from the plow, donned his uniform, and with his cartridge box over his shoulder and his musket in his hand, he rode on horseback to Eaton, a distance of ten miles, in less than an hour. There he met his company ready for service. Volunteers were called for and the response filled the quota of the county for a call of fifty thousand men issued by President Polk. When its services were no longer needed the company was discharged and the men permitted to return home.

At the breaking out of the civil war in 1861, when President Lincoln called for seventy-five thousand men who were urgently needed to crush out the rebellion, and the treasury was empty, Mr. Zeller donated forty dollars to buy a horse for one who was willing to go—and he went, never to return. Later in the war he always cheerfully paid his quota of money required to raise volunteers and also the war tax. He was fortunate enough to escape the drafting, but during the latter part of the war he hired an

alien at a high price to act as his substitute as a volunteer. The man went to the front and he, too, never returned. Mr. Zeller remained at home in active life on a big farm, liberally furnishing money for carrying on the war. During the progress of hostilities, in July, at what was a most inopportune time, Mr. Zeller, having a large harvest of grain in the shock, received a message that Morgan was making a raid in southern Ohio, and loyal men must go to the rescue. He hastened to Eaton, where the report was received that men had heard cannon booming at Hamilton. With a large company he boarded a long train of box cars and moved rapidly toward that place. The men were armed only with haversacks and tin cups. When they arrived they found Hamilton full of men, but few were equipped for war and the town was ill-prepared to receive them. There were no accommodations for the men and many were compelled to lie upon the bare ground. Mr. Zeller was one of the number, and in this way he contracted ague, from which he suffered for seven consecutive summers. After a short time spent in Hamilton the news was received that Morgan's forces were being scattered and the men were permitted to return to their farms and their homes.

Mr. Zeller cast his first presidential vote for Zachary Taylor, the Whig candidate, and on the dissolution of that party was a Republican until 1896, when he supported W. J. Bryan for the presidency; but in 1900, the money question being put in the background by the Democratic party, and other important questions coming up, he voted for William McKinley. He has served as township trustee and school director, and also as a trustee of the Methodist Episcopal church, of which he is a faithful and con-

sistent member, having contributed for the building and rebuilding of their church the sum of nine hundred dollars. Fraternally he is a member of the Grange. His estimable wife holds membership in the same church, and like her husband has many warm friends in the community where they reside.

BARNETT W. HUFFMAN.

Barnett W. Huffman is serving as deputy sheriff of Preble county. He was born in Somers township, October 25, 1843, his parents being Alexander and Elizabeth (Walters) Huffman, natives of Ohio and Maryland, respectively. They were married in Somers township, Preble county, and the father, a successful and enterprising farmer, occupied a fine property. His great energy and industry enabled him to successfully conduct his business affairs and at the time of his death, which occurred when he was sixty-six years of age, he owned a valuable farm of three hundred acres, which was divided among his heirs. His wife, surviving her husband for two years, passed away at the age of sixty-seven. Their family numbered three sons and a daughter, of whom our subject is the eldest. Joseph married Miss Nettie Baston, of New Lexington, Perry county, Ohio. He was a graduate of Delaware College, became a lawyer of prominence and was judge of the common pleas court of Perry county at the time of his death, which occurred in 1892. The third of the family is William, a retired farmer residing in Eaton and the owner of a valuable tract of land in Dixon township. Olive Jane, only daughter, is the wife of Minor J. Larsh, a railroad conductor living in Indianapolis.

Barnett W. Huffman, who is widely and

favorably known in Preble county, pursued his education in the district schools of Dixon township until about sixteen years of age, when he was placed in a select school in Richmond, Indiana. He declined a collegiate education offered him by his father, but completed a thorough English course under private instruction in Richmond. On laying aside his text-books, he returned to his father's farm and assisted in the cultivation and operation of the land until twenty-four years of age. On the 30th of May, 1865, he was married in his native township to Miss Elizabeth Conger, also a native of Dixon township. She was reared and educated within three miles of her husband's home, and her parents were Eli and Lucinda Conger, very prominent and highly respected people of Preble county. Her only brother, James H. Conger, is a grain merchant of Eaton, and her sister Carrie is the wife of Colonel Andrew L. Harris, ex-lieutenant-governor of Ohio, who served for two terms in that capacity while President McKinley occupied the chair of the chief executive of the state.

After his marriage Mr. Huffman engaged in farming in Union county, Indiana, where he owned and operated a tract of land of one hundred acres. After thirteen years spent upon that farm he sold the property and purchased a quarter-section of land in Dixon township, Preble county, which he still owns. This is one of the most valuable farms in the county, being improved with excellent buildings, natural groves of sugar maple and with all of the modern accessories and conveniences of the model farm. Wishing to retire from the more arduous duties that fall to the lot of the agriculturist, yet not desiring to be entirely idle, he purchased a forty-acre tract of land near Eaton,

to which he removed with his family, living there in comparative comfort and ease for two years. In 1896 he sold that model little home and came to the city, where for four years he was engaged in the sale of farming implements and fertilizers, in connection with Colonel Robert Williams. The enterprise proved a very profitable one. Colonel Williams being elected to the legislature, Mr. Huffman conducted the store alone for two years, after which the business was sold. He was appointed deputy sheriff under Albert L. Borradaile, the present sheriff, in 1898, being chosen to the position from among fourteen applicants. In his two years' service he has demonstrated that Mr. Borradaile made a wise choice in his selection of an assistant, for he has ever been found faithful in the discharge of his duties. In the Republican county convention held at Eaton, August 18, 1900, he was nominated for the office of sheriff. He has ever been a man of marked patriotism, and his loyalty to his country was shown in 1864 when he enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He spent his term of enlistment mostly at Cumberland, Maryland. Another evidence of his patriotism was a gift which he made to a cavalry volunteer, a young friend of his, to whom he presented the first horse he ever owned. The horse was killed in battle, but the rider escaped and is still living. A public-spirited and progressive citizen, national issues as well as local affairs have for a him a deep interest. He is now connected with Mulharen Post, No. 3, G. A. R., of Eaton.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Huffman were born three sons and a daughter. The sons are: William, a contractor and builder of Eaton, who married Allie Kimmel; Frank, who wedded Jennie Sliver and is now operating

the old homestead farm, and Harvey, a lad of sixteen who attends school through the winter months, while in vacations he assists his brother on the farm. The daughter, Mary, died when twenty-one years of age. Mr. Huffman is a member of the Christian church, and owes his conversion and his connection with the church to the influence of his wife. On the 31st of August, 1898, he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, her death resulting from typhoid fever. She was a most earnest and exemplary Christian woman, and her goodness was like the fragrance of the wood violets. Without pretense, her influence was felt by all with whom she came in contact. She devoted herself untiringly to her husband and children, her first care being to make their home a happy one in which her sons should be well prepared for life's practical and responsible duties. Her loss was an irreparable one to her husband and children, but her memory remains as a blessed benediction to all who knew her.

RODDIE REYNOLDS.

Mr. Reynolds was for a number of years one of the most prominent citizens of Preble county, a man whose life of earnest effort was honorable and upright, worthy of the confidence and regard of his fellow men. He was born in Elfin, Roscommon county, Ireland, in 1844. His father belonged to one of the wealthy Irish families, and marrying a poor girl against the consent of his parents, he was disinherited. He came to the United States with his family when the subject of this review was only six years of age, landing in Boston in 1850. Later he removed to Trenton, New Jersey, and in 1856 the fam-

ily came to Preble county, the father having died of cholera in the meantime. In the public schools Roddie Reynolds pursued his education and afterward learned the printer's and tinner's trades. When seventeen years of age he began business on his own account as a dealer in hardware, tinware and stoves. He also became an iron-work contractor, and by careful management and honorable dealing soon secured a liberal patronage and built up a good business. After the breaking out of the civil war he twice attempted to enlist in the United States army, but was rejected on account of being too young for the service. In May, 1864, he joined the United States navy, and became master's mate on the flagship General Burnside, of the Mississippi squadron, and in December, 1864, was made executive officer of the steamship General Thomas, of the same squadron. He rendered splendid service for his country, and in recognition of his loyalty and ability he was presented with a beautiful sword by Lieutenant-Commander Moreau Forrest, of the squadron. He operated mostly on the Cumberland and Tennessee rivers, and the exposure which he endured in defense of the country led to the sickness which resulted in his death on the 19th of October, 1884, at the age of forty years. The exposure to all kinds of weather affected his voice so greatly that he was obliged to resign in 1865, being unable to give commands.

On the 29th of November, 1866, Mr. Reynolds was united in marriage to Miss S. E. Daugherty, a daughter of John M. Daugherty, who lived in Preble county for many years. Their union was blessed with three children, of whom two are living: Louis Clement Reynolds, who is now an attorney of Eaton; and Nellie S., the wife of

Professor George Roy Eastman, a teacher of Latin in the high school of Dayton.

After his return from the war Mr. Reynolds resumed business, as a hardware merchant and iron-work contractor, continuing his connection with the mercantile interests of Eaton until 1879, when he went to Washington, D. C., to accept the position of presidential clerk in the sixth auditor's office. He served as chief clerk for a time, and for a period was also the private secretary of General Le Fevre, congressman. On leaving Washington he was presented with a fine set of resolutions from his associates, expressing their high regard for him and their regret at his departure. Mr. Reynolds was a very enterprising and capable business man whose advancement resulted entirely from his own efforts. He worked his way upward, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles in his path, and as a result of his keen discernment, wise judgment and unflagging industry, he met with creditable success. In politics he was a stalwart Republican and was a very prominent and influential citizen.

Mrs. Reynolds now owns the old homestead of her parents that has been in the possession of the family for eighty years, it being settled by Samuel Hunt, the maternal grandfather of John M. Daugherty, the father of Mrs. Reynolds. Joseph Hunt, the grandfather of Samuel Hunt, served throughout the Revolutionary war. Mrs. Reynold's paternal grandfather served his country as a captain of militia in the war of 1812. Mrs. Reynolds has been connected with the Daughters of the American Revolution since December, 1893, belonging to St. Clair Chapter, of Preble county, and has been the regent since its organization, taking a deep interest and a very active part in its work. She is also a leading mem-

ber of the Ladies of Naval Veterans' Association, of Providence, Rhode Island. She was a delegate to the annual convention of this association at Chicago in August, 1900, where she was elected its national secretary. She is also the chaplain of the Woman's Relief Corps, of Eaton; is a member of the Order of the Eastern Star and is very active in the State Historical and Archæological Society of Ohio. She was appointed as lady representative of Preble county to the World's Fair. She has been secretary of the Children's Home since its organization under the present state law, and is deeply interested in benevolent and philanthropic work generally.

At her suggestion the ladies of Preble county had a buckeye tree cut on the one hundredth anniversary of the battle of Fort St. Clair, which took place here. This tree was cut by Lieutenant-Governor Harris and Mayor A. C. Risinger, and, being made into a cabinet or desk, was sent as an exhibit to the World's Fair. Later it was returned to Preble county, and it is proposed to keep the desk in preservation until the two hundredth anniversary of the battle.

On the 27th of May, 1897, Mrs. Reynolds and other ladies edited and published the Eaton Register, the proceeds of which were donated by the owners of the paper to the fund that was being raised to erect a monument to the unknown dead. In this work Mrs. Reynolds was associated with Mrs. M. S. Fisher, Mrs. M. V. Michael, Mrs. A. W. Risinger, Mrs. M. J. Welsh and Mrs. M. K. Stubbs. A member of the Research Literary Society, of Eaton, Mrs. Reynolds has also served as its president. It was this organization which gave the colors to the Ortt Rifles, and recently incorporated the Eaton public library. She took the United

States census of the western half of Eaton in 1890.

Mrs. Reynolds is a lady of strong individuality, of marked force of character, of splendid intellectual attainments and has left the impress of her character and work upon the mental, moral and esthetic development of Preble county. Her philanthropic spirit has prompted her to many acts of benevolence. She has carried her literary researches far and wide into historic, scientific and classical fields, and among the prominent ladies of Preble county she is recognized as a leader of thought and social movement.

THOMAS J. STUBBS.

Thomas J. Stubbs is a native of Preble county, Ohio, born on a farm about two miles east of West Elkton, on the 10th day of August, 1838. His parents were Elisha and Elizabeth (Townsend) Stubbs. Elisha Stubbs was born in Georgia, November 29, 1798, and was a son of Thomas and Mary (Hobson) Stubbs. Thomas Stubbs also was born in Georgia, and was a son of John and Esther (Maddock) Stubbs, the former of whom was a native of Pennsylvania and was the fourth son of Thomas and Mary (Minor) Stubbs, natives of England. Thomas Stubbs was the progenitor of this family in America. He emigrated from England to America about 1718, and soon after married Mary Minor, in Chester county, Pennsylvania, in 1720. They were both members of the Society of Friends, and reared nine children, viz.: Daniel, Esther, Thomas, John, Joseph, Mary, Elizabeth, Sarah and Ann Stubbs. The genealogy of the Stubbs family may be traced back for many centuries—to Richard, of Hull, England.

John Stubbs, the fourth child of Thomas

and Mary (Minor) Stubbs, removed from Pennsylvania to North Carolina in the spring of 1755, and there married Esther Maddock, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Joseph Maddock, and they had fourteen children. About 1768 they removed to a point within about thirty miles of Augusta, Georgia, where they both died, he dying December 27, 1803, aged seventy-one years. Unto John and Esther (Maddock) Stubbs were born these children: Hannah, Jesse, Nathan, Isaac, Thomas, Samuel, Rachael, Esther, Deborah, Mary, John, William, Joseph and Sarah. The last named died in infancy, while all the others grew to mature years, married and in a short time after their father's death removed to and settled in the southwestern part of Ohio, with the exception of Jesse Stubbs, who settled in Indiana some forty miles from where his brothers and sisters had settled in Ohio. Of these children Thomas Stubbs was born near Augusta, Georgia, in 1775, and died near West Elkton, Ohio, June 29, 1844. He married Mary Hobson and came to Preble county, Ohio, in 1805, and devoted his life to the pursuit of farming. To Thomas and Mary (Hobson) Stubbs were born the following children: Elisha, Arah, Charles, John H., Keziah, Lydia, Rebecca, Sarah and Lorenzo.

Elisha Stubbs came to Preble county, Ohio, with his parents in 1805, and settled with them in Gratis township. September 9, 1819, he married Elizabeth Townsend, a daughter of John and Elvira (Cane) Townsend. Her father was a soldier of the Revolution. He and wife came from Georgia, and each lived to a ripe old age, he dying in 1853, aged nearly ninety years, and she at the age of one hundred and two years and four days. Unto Elisha and Elizabeth

(Townsend) Stubbs were born eight children, viz.: Eli, Hiram, Keziah, Rachael H., Enos P., Isaac C., Thomas J. and Esther T. The father of these children was a natural mechanic and worked at the cooper's trade to some extent, and erected most of the buildings on his own farm. He was a Whig in early life and on the dissolution of that party joined the ranks of the new Republican party. For several years he served as a justice of the peace, bearing a commission dated 1826 and signed by Governor Jeremiah Morrow. He and wife were members of the Society of Friends, and were among the highly respected people of their community. During the last years of their lives they resided in the village of West Elkton, and were laid to rest in Friends cemetery at this place. Their influence for good was long potent in the community in which they resided.

Thomas J. Stubbs, whose name introduces this record, was educated in the common schools. His observing eye and retentive memory have enabled him to add largely to his knowledge since putting aside his school books. He was reared to farm life. He inherited some of his father's mechanical genius and about twenty years ago began work at the stone-mason's trade, which he followed for some time, as well as carpentering. However, the greater part of his life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits, and today he owns and occupies a farm on section 29, Gratis township, his home being pleasantly located about one-half mile west of the village of West Elkton, in the neighborhood of which place his entire life has been spent. His father, serving for many years as a justice of the peace, and doing much legal business in the drawing up of deeds and other documents and in the settle-

ments of estates, his son, after the father's death, was naturally turned to for the transaction of like forms of business. Some fifteen years ago he was commissioned a notary public by Governor James E. Campbell. He has done much legal business in the settlement of estates, serving as administrator, executor and guardian, and in the drawing up of many legal documents. He is also a justice of the peace.

On the 2d of September, 1858, Mr. Stubbs was united in marriage to Miss Rachel A. Stubbs, a distant relative and a daughter of Nathan and Ann (Mendenhall) Stubbs. Her father died when she was nine years of age. She was born in Preble county, April 8, 1841. Her brothers and sisters who reached years of maturity were Martha Ann, the wife of Lewis Taylor and a minister in the Friends church; Elijah M., who died in Kansas, at the age of fifty-nine years; Elizabeth J., the wife of Zimri Stubbs; Milton, who is living in Lyons county, Kansas; and Marmaduke M., who was killed at Camden, Ohio, by the cars.

Unto Thomas J. and Rachel A. Stubbs were born five children, viz.: Effie L., born December 22, 1859, and died May 6, 1885; she began teaching in her eighteenth year and was successful in her calling. The second child was Alva E., who died at the age of two and a half years. The living children are D. E. Stubbs, of whom brief mention is made farther on; Bertha A., born May 9, 1871; and Verona, born December 7, 1873, who is the wife of F. C. Roberts, of the vicinity of West Elkton. The parents are members of the Society of Friends, and for years have been overseers in the church. In political views Mr. Stubbs is a stanch Republican, and as a citizen and official he has ever been true to public duty and trust de-

volved upon him. A man of reliability, he is held in the highest confidence and esteem of his fellow citizens.

D. E. STUBBS.

D. E. Stubbs, of Eaton, Ohio, was born near West Elkton, Ohio, August 21, 1865, and is a son of Thomas J. Stubbs, of whom mention is made above. He was educated at Earlham College, Richmond, Indiana, in which city he learned printing and binding. Finishing his trade he worked as journeyman for several years, visiting and working in many places throughout the United States. During the time he did considerable work as reporter and correspondent. His first newspaper work was done while he was a student in Earlham College as a writer for the Associated Press. He has always been a writer for the Associated Press and is also special correspondent for several leading daily papers. In the spring of 1888 he purchased the Twin Valley Times, of West Alexandria, Ohio, and for about four years thereafter remained the proprietor and editor of that weekly paper. Selling the paper, he came to Eaton and purchased an interest in the Eaton Democrat, and for more than a year was associated with Mr. L. G. Gould in the publication of the Democrat. Selling his interest in this paper Mr. Stubbs embarked in the stationery and book business in Eaton. At the same time establishing in connection therewith a job printing business. After a duration he discontinued the stationery and book business that he might devote his entire time to job printing and book binding, which he has since continued with success.

He was married September 20, 1888, to Mary Anna Kendig, daughter of Rev. Adam

C. and Sarah E. (Bowers) Kendig. Unto the marriage three children have been born, viz.: Marjorie E., Hubert K., and Dorothy M.

Fraternally Mr. Stubbs is a member of the Knights of Pythias. As a printer and book binder Mr. Stubbs is a master of his trade and has made a success in this line of business. As a writer he has gained a good reputation, and as a citizen he is numbered among the representative.

AUGUSTUS A. MCNEILL.

Augustus A. McNeill is occupying the position of postmaster of New Paris, and in the discharge of his duties has won high commendation, showing that the public trust reposed in him is well merited. He was born in Clermont county, Ohio, April 13, 1860, and is of Irish lineage, manifesting in his life many of the sturdy and stalwart characteristics of that race. His grandfather, John McNeill, was born in Ireland and came to America in 1812, locating in Monroe township, Clermont county, Ohio, where he reared his children and followed the occupation of farming. He secured land from the government, transformed it into rich and fertile fields and upon the old homestead spent his remaining days. He had six sons and six daughters who reached adult age and eight of the number yet survive. John McNeill, Jr., the father of our subject, was born in Clermont county, Ohio, and there remained until twenty-one years of age, when he went to California, remaining upon the Pacific slope for about four years, engaged in mining. Upon his return he again located in the county of his nativity, where he carried on farming for some time. During the civil war his patriotic spirit was aroused and

with marked loyalty and devotion to the old flag he raised a company which went to the front. Afterward he re-enlisted and was the captain of a company of the One Hundred and Fifty-fourth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. For a number of years he was identified with the agricultural interests of Preble county. He married Caroline Fee, a native of Clermont county, Ohio, who was reared in the same locality as her husband, a daughter of Daniel Fee, a noted Abolitionist whose home became a station on the famous underground railroad, whereby many a slave was assisted on his way to freedom. He was of Scotch descent. By the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. McNeill three children, one son and two daughters, were born. The father died in Preble county, in 1891, at the age of sixty-one years, but the mother still survives, at the age of sixty-nine years.

Augustus A. McNeill, their only son, spent the first fourteen years of his life in Clermont county, Ohio, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Richmond, this state, where he remained for four years. At the age of eighteen he came with them to Preble county, a location being made upon a farm in Jefferson township. He remained with the family until his marriage, which occurred on the 1st of April, 1881, Miss Frances S. Paul becoming his wife. She is a native of Jefferson township and a daughter of James H. and Margaret J. (Brinley) Paul, who were early settlers of Preble county. They now have two interesting children, Paul F. and Flavilla, at home.

After his marriage Mr. McNeill engaged in buying stock in connection with his father-in-law for some time and later operated his father's farm until 1894, when he came to New Paris and embarked in the lumber

business. He was connected with the commercial interests of the city in that way until August, 1897, when he was appointed postmaster by President McKinley and still serves in that position. His administration of the affairs of the office is business-like. He is notably prompt and reliable and in office has won a very high reputation. He has served as the assessor of his township for two terms and was a trustee for six years. His political support is given the Republican party and he is most loyal to its principles. He belongs to the New Paris Lodge, No. 303, I. O. O. F., with which he has been identified since 1887, and its benevolent and fraternal principles he exemplifies in his life.

JOHN PHILLIP SAUER.

Extensively engaged in farming in Jackson township, Preble county, Mr. Sauer is the owner of four hundred and forty-five acres of valuable land, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation until the well tilled fields now yield to him a handsome return. In the pastures are found good grades of stock, and everything about the place is neat and thrifty in appearance. The owner follows the progressive methods of farming and has one of the most desirable and attractive homes in this section of the state. A native of Ohio, he was born in Butler county, on the 15th of February, 1842, his parents being William and Sarah A. (Potterf) Sauer. The father was born in Germany, on the 10th of March, 1809, and was a son of John P. and Christina Sauer. He worked in his father's vineyard in early life and when he was eighteen years of age accompanied his parents on their emigration to the United States, the family locating in Butler county where the grandfa-

ther established a distillery. In its operations he was assisted by his son William until four years after the latter's marriage, when he removed to Preble county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land west of West Alexandria, in Twin township, the farm upon which his son George T. now resides. There he made his home for a number of years, but his last days were spent in West Alexandria, where he died on the 27th of October, 1888. He was an ardent Democrat in politics and a strong anti-slavery man. For many years he held membership in the Lutheran church and took an active part in its work, doing all in his power to promote the cause of Christianity among men. In his family were nine children, of whom eight are living, namely: Christy A., wife of Herman Steinmeyer, a prominent farmer of Twin township; John P., our subject; George T., a farmer of Twin township, Preble county; James B., a farmer of Lanier township, Preble county; Catherine, wife of John Pundt, of Johnson county, Kansas; Mary A., wife of Thomas F. Ryder, a farmer of Lanier township, Preble county; Ida, wife of Samuel Smith, a farmer and dairyman of Twin township; and Edward M., a farmer of Washington township, Preble county.

John Phillip Sauer acquired his education in the common schools and was reared upon his father's farm, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. As a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Miss Caroline Steinmeyer, their marriage being celebrated on the 16th of June, 1864. The lady is a daughter of Frederick Steinmeyer. In February following his marriage Mr. Sauer took up his abode on the farm where he now resides, and during

the succeeding five years rented a quarter-section of land from his father. In 1870 he purchased the farm and has since become one of the substantial agriculturists of the county. As the years have passed and his financial resources have increased he has added to his property until within the home place is embraced four hundred and forty-five acres of rich land. For the past twenty years he has also engaged in feeding cattle. He began that business on a small scale but his trade has steadily increased until he is now one of the largest feeders in this section of the county. His business interests have been energetically prosecuted and his labors have brought to him a very enviable degree of success. For the past four years he has been the agent for the Page Wire Fence for the territory included within Dixon township and the southern half of Jackson township. He is a man of resourceful business ability, wide-awake, alert, diligent and enterprising, and he carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. His business methods are honorable, commanding the respect and confidence of all, and those who know him regard him as a most straightforward and reliable man.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sauer have been born four children, of whom three are living: Edward C., who is engaged in farming a portion of the home place, married Miss Emma C. Schloterbeck, and they have two children, Hazel and Carl Clayton; Frederick W. married Miss Ordena McWhinney and is also engaged in operating a part of the home farm; and Dena L. is at home. In his political views Mr. Sauer is a Democrat, and for several years he has served as a member of the board of education. The schools find in him a warm friend, for he recognizes the value of education as a preparation for life's

practical and responsible duties. He has never been a politician in the sense of office seeking, but keeps well informed on the issues of the day and gives an intelligent support to his party. He devotes his attention almost exclusively to his business affairs and his interests are well managed and carefully conducted and bring to him a very desirable financial return.

CHRISTIAN FLORA.

Christian Flora has passed the seventy-fifth milestone on life's journey, and his career has been an active, useful and honorable one. He has long been numbered among the farmers of Jackson township, Preble county, where he is the owner of a valuable tract of land. He was born in Franklin county, Virginia, March 29, 1824, and is of German lineage. His great-grandfather, Joseph Flora, was the founder of the family in America, having emigrated to the new world from Germany. His son, Joseph Flora, the grandfather of our subject, was born in Franklin county, Virginia, and there occurred the birth of Jonathan Flora, the father of our subject. The latter came to Ohio in 1831, taking up his abode in Gasper township, Preble county. For many years he carried on agricultural pursuits, his death occurring in 1865. In religious faith he was a Dunkard, holding membership with that church. He wedded Mary Bowman, who was born in Franklin county, Virginia, belonged to one of the old and honored families of that state, and died in 1880. This worthy couple were the parents of ten children, five of whom are yet living: Catherine, wife of John Studebaker, of Cass county, Indiana; Christian; John, who is living in Liberty, Indiana; Mary, widow of Thomas

Charles and a resident of Gasper township, Preble county; and Jonathan, of Eaton. The deceased were Hannah, who married David Spitler; Elizabeth, who married Abram Cooper; Susanna, who married Benjamin Cooper; Nancy, who died unmarried; and Peter.

When only seven years of age Christian Flora accompanied his parents on their emigration to the Buckeye state. He attended the country schools in Gasper township and was reared to the work of the farm, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. In 1848 he was married and began operating a farm on his own account. He continued to rent land until 1851, when he purchased the Franklin McWhinney farm, just north of his present home. It was in 1855 that he purchased the old homestead where he has since lived. His careful cultivation of the fields has brought to him a good income, and he has long been known as one of the leading and enterprising agriculturists of the community. During the civil war he was a staunch Union man and contributed freely of his means in support of the cause. He was one of the celebrated "squirrel riflemen" who, upon the governor's call for troops, went to Cincinnati to aid in repelling the threatened invasion of Morgan who was making his way northward from Kentucky. During his absence his wife, a most patriotic and loyal woman, drove a four-horse team to a reaper in the wheat field. She was also active in the work of the Sanitary Aid Society, and did all she could to advance the Union cause and promote the interests of the men on the field and in the hospital.

Mrs. Flora bore the maiden name of Sarah Potterf, and on the 9th of March, 1848, she gave her hand in marriage to the

gentleman whose name introduces this review. Her father, David Potterf, was born September 14, 1802, and died February 13, 1874. The Potterf family is also of German lineage and was founded in America by the great-grandfather of Mrs. Flora, who settled in Rockingham county, Virginia. His son, Gasper Potterf, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, in 1754, and came to Ohio in 1806, settling in what is now Gasper township, Preble county. The township of Gasper was named in his honor, receiving his first name, and during the early development of the county he was one of its prominent and influential citizens. Prior to emigrating westward he loyally served in the war of the Revolution, participating in the battles of Brandywine, Valley Forge and Yorktown, being present at the surrender of Lord Cornwallis, and he was also at one time a prisoner in the hands of the English. He had the honor and pleasure of being present when General Washington delivered his farewell address to the army. He was married in 1784 to Susannah Ridenour, who died in 1831, and his death occurred in Gasper township, on the 4th of October, 1836, when he had reached the age of eighty-two years. David Potterf, the father of Mrs. Flora, was a farmer by occupation, and having arrived at years of maturity he wedded Anna Sorber, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine Sorber, who came to Preble county in 1811. She was a consistent and faithful member of the Reformed church, and died in March, 1895, aged eighty-six years, respected by all who knew her. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Potterf were born eleven children, seven of whom are yet living, namely: Mrs. Flora; George W., a physician of Sterling, Kansas; Eliza J., wife of Isaiah Ross, of West Alexandria, Ohio; Mary C., wife of

John Flora, of Liberty, Indiana; Anna M., wife of Jacob Klinger, of West Alexandria. Lewis A. and David E., who are also residents of West Alexandria. The four deceased children are: Susannah, who married Joseph Barmhizer; Catherine, wife of Louis Pottenger; Jacob C.; and Philena, who died in infancy.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Flora were born four children: Edwin E., who is living in Sumner county, Kansas; Alvina F., wife of Marks Deem, of Eaton; Perry C., a resident of Jackson township; and Anna B., wife of G. W. Reh fuss, of Eaton. Throughout the greater part of their married life Mr. and Mrs. Flora have resided upon the farm which is now their home, their residence here covering a period of forty-five years. They are widely and favorably known in the community and are leading members of the Christian church of Eaton, in which they take a very active part. They contributed liberally to its support and Mr. Flora has served as a member of its board of deacons. In his political views he is a stalwart Republican, having supported that party since its organization. For many years he served as township trustee and as school trustee, discharging his duties with marked promptness and fidelity. All who know him highly for his sterling worth, and it is with pleasure that we present the record of this honored pioneer and respected farmer to the readers of this volume.

CHARLES M. WILCOX, D. D. S.

Dentistry may be said to be almost unique among other occupations, as it is at once a profession, a trade and a business. Such being the case it follows that in order to attain the highest success in it one must be

thoroughly conversant with the theory of the art, must be expert in the many tools and appliances incidental to the practice of modern dentistry, and must possess business qualifications adequate to dealing with the financial side of the profession. In none of these qualifications is Dr. Wilcox lacking, and to-day he is numbered among the skillful representatives of his chosen profession, which fact is indicated by the liberal patronage which is accorded to him.

His entire life has been passed in Preble county. He was born in Monroe township, this county, May 14, 1851. His father, Abram Wilcox, was a native of the Empire state, where he was reared to manhood. Ultimately he made his way down the Ohio river to Cincinnati and thence to Preble county. He was a cooper by trade and carried on that business first at Eldorado and afterward at New Paris. In his political views he was a Democrat who was never an aspirant for office, preferring to give his attention to his business affairs. He married Miss Henrietta Brightwell, who was born and reared in Maryland, a daughter of John Brightwell, who served his country in the war of 1812. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wilcox were born seven children, four of whom reached years of maturity. The father died at the age of sixty-seven years and the mother passed away in the eightieth year of her age.

Dr. Wilcox is the youngest child and only son of his parents' family who reached adult age. He was reared in Eldorado until 1861, when, at the age of ten, he came with his parents to New Paris and in the schools of this city supplemented the knowledge which he had gained in the former town. Deciding to devote his life to the practice of dentistry, he began preparing for the pro-

fession when sixteen years of age as a student in the office of Dr. J. L. Braffett in New Paris. He remained with him for three years as an apprentice, after which he became the Doctor's partner and that connection continued for five years. Dr. Wilcox has since engaged in practice alone and is one of the oldest dentists in years of continuous connection with the profession in the state. He has much natural mechanical ability as well as a comprehensive knowledge of the practical principles of dentistry and has secured many patents on original devices for performing the work of his profession. He certainly has one of the best equipped offices in the state and his superior skill and ability have given to him prestige as a representative of his chosen calling.

The Doctor has been twice married. In Boston, Indiana, in 1880, he married Miss Viola Clingpeel, by whom he had a daughter, Henrietta B. P., who is now attending school. His first wife died about six years after their marriage. The Doctor's present wife was formerly Mrs. Minnie Halley, a daughter of Samuel Mitchell and a native of Preble county. In his political views Dr. Wilcox is a staunch Democrat and keeps well informed on the issues of the day, giving to his party an intelligent support. Recognized as one of its leaders in his community, he was elected on its ticket to the office of mayor of New Paris in 1890 and served most acceptably in that position. He belongs to Fellowship Lodge, No. 106, F. & A. M., and to the Knights of Pythias of Eldorado and I. O. O. F. of New Paris. He also holds membership in the Eastern Indiana Dental Association and spares no expense nor effort that will advance his knowledge and skill in his chosen profes-

sion. His patience, unfailing courtesy and kindness have made him very popular, both in business life and in the social circles, and he well merits the high regard in which he is uniformly held.

CHARLES W. BLOOM.

One of the most prominent representatives of the journalistic profession in Preble county is the gentleman whose name introduces this review, the well-known editor and proprietor of the *New Paris Mirror*. A native of this county, he was born in Jefferson township, September 4, 1846, and is a son of Guy and Hannah (Jameson) Bloom. The father was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1815, and about 1825 accompanied his parents on their removal to Darke county, Ohio, where he grew to manhood upon a farm. He came to Preble county when a young man and was married in New Paris to Hannah Jameson, who was born in Kentucky, in 1827, and was brought to New Paris in 1836 by her father, Wesley Jameson, also a native of Kentucky, who left there in the '50s and died in Noblesville, Indiana. Our subject's paternal grandfather, named Joseph Bloom, was born in Pennsylvania, of German descent, and died in Darke county, this state. Throughout his active business life the father followed farming in Preble county, and was well and favorably known. Fraternally he was a Mason. He died in September, 1883, and his wife passed away in 1899. Our subject is the oldest of their ten children, all born in Preble county. The others who are still living are Horace G.; Mary, the wife of William B. Reid; and Homer.

Charles W. Bloom was principally educated in the common schools, but also at-

tended the academy at Richmond, Indiana, for a time. Going to that city at the age of nineteen years he was there engaged in the furniture business with his father for a while, and was also an engineer. On his return to New Paris he located on the home farm, which he operated during the summer months, while he taught school through the winter season for six years. While thus employed he was married, January 6, 1870, to Miss Anna Pence, also a native of Preble county and a daughter of Nimrod and Elizabeth Pence. By this union was born a daughter, Grace, who learned the printing business in her father's office and is now the wife of W. L. Hahn, a merchant of New Paris.

Mr. Bloom continued to engage in school teaching for four years after his marriage, and then devoted his time exclusively to his farming interests until 1884. He still owns a good farm of one hundred and eighteen acres in Jefferson township, which he now rents. Removing to New Paris, in 1884, he has since engaged in the printing business. He is the editor of the *Mirror*, which was established in 1877, and was published under the name of the *Business Mirror* for some time. The first paper with which he was connected was *The Amateur*, in 1877, since which time he has been more or less interested in journalistic work, and in connection with the publication of his present paper he also conducts a job printing office.

In the spring of 1864 Mr. Bloom served one hundred days as a member of the Ohio National Guards. He is a prominent and active member of New Paris Lodge, No. 303, I. O. O. F., of which he has been secretary for twelve years, and he has been quite an influential and prominent member of the Prohibition party, having always

been a strong temperance man. He was a member of the national convention of that party held at Pittsburg, in 1896, and for four years took a very active part in politics, but since the disruption of that party during the convention he has voted independently. Religiously he is a member of the Universalist church and is now serving as moderator of the same. He takes a deep interest in everything pertaining to the public welfare of his town, and withholds his support from no enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit.

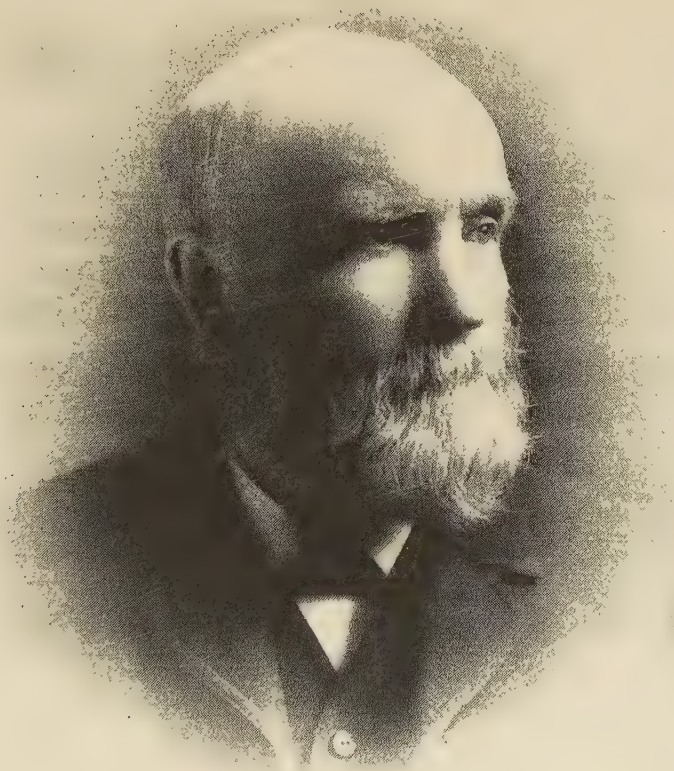
JAMES B. WELSH, M. D.

A retired physician of Eaton, Dr. Welsh has well earned a period of rest by a long life of usefulness and activity in the medical profession. For over forty years he ministered to suffering humanity in Eaton and the surrounding country, and he was the loved family physician of many a household. No night was so dark or so stormy that it prevented his reaching the bedside of the sick or distressed, and he never refused to respond to a professional call even though he knew the hope of pecuniary reward was slight. Though disposed to be wise and careful in the expenditure of his energies, it is said that he was never too tired or too sick to go when called. Being a man of strong constitution, he was able to undergo many hardships through his long and successful professional career. Now after many years of honorable connection with the medical fraternity he is permitted to retire from active practice and to enjoy the quiet and rest of a life, surrounded by all the necessities and many of the luxuries which go to make life worth the living, for he not only gained an enviable reputation for his skill

and efficiency, but he also acquired a handsome competency.

On the 30th of July, 1821, in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, Dr. Welsh was born. He was eight years of age when his father died. When a youth of fifteen he removed with his mother to Indiana. Soon after attaining his majority he began, in an irregular way, the study of medicine, being at the same time engaged in school-teaching. In 1858 he was graduated at the Ohio Medical College, of Cincinnati, and immediately afterward he located in Eaton, since which time he has been closely identified with the growth of this city and Preble county. During all this time he has been accounted one of the most skillful representatives of his profession and one of the most valuable and progressive citizens of the community. Though always to be relied upon as a friend of progress, interested in public matters, and ardent in the support of universal education, his activity in professional life and his duties as a physician precluded his active connection with public or social affairs. He served for many years on the board of education in Eaton and always favored liberal appropriations for carrying on the work and the employment of the best teachers. Much credit and praise is due the board of education, which secured for Eaton its present excellent school building on Barron street. Dr. Welsh was the president of that board and was influential in obtaining for Eaton the splendid building which stands as a monument to the intellectual activity of the town, and especially to those who were members of the board at the time of its erection.

At one time Dr. Welsh was interested in the banking business at Kokomo, Indiana, but through no fault of his own this enterprise proved a failure. He took no legal or



James B. Welch M.D.

other advantage to escape his responsibility, but finally paid off every liability to which he was legally and morally obligated, thus sustaining in the aggregate a loss of more than fifty thousand dollars. In his business transactions the Doctor has ever been fair and honorable, dealing justly with his fellow men. At no time has his integrity ever been called into question, and his word has ever been regarded as good as his bond.

The Doctor has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Eva J. Garver, whom he wedded May 16, 1841. She became the mother of six children, the eldest of whom was Dr. Isaac N. Welsh, who for many years successfully practiced dentistry in Eaton. Of the children only two survive—Mrs. A. C. Risinger and Dr. E. E. Welsh—both of Eaton. Of the others, Mary Amanda died at the age of four years; Louisa became the wife of S. B. Tizzard and died in young womanhood; and Lucy V. died in early life. On the 22d of February, 1878, the mother was called to the home beyond this life and by a large concourse of sorrowing relatives and friends her remains were borne to Mound Hill cemetery and there interred. She was a lady of sterling qualities, a devoted wife and mother and a faithful friend. On the 11th of September, 1879, the Doctor was again married, his second union being with Miss Catherine Oakes, of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume. By the second marriage there is one son, James Oakes Welsh, who was born April 12, 1885.

In religious belief the Doctor is a Universalist, and in politics he has been a Republican from the organization of the party. Previously he was an Abolitionist and Free-Soiler. He voted for James G. Birney, the first Abolition candidate for president.

Though not a voter during the campaign of William Henry Harrison, he lent his aid and enthusiasm to further the interests of the "log-cabin candidate." In all life's relations he has borne the part of a true, sincere and honorable man. Successful in his chosen profession, proficient in business affairs, public-spirited, kind and considerate to his family and fellow men, he is numbered among the venerated and highly respected residents of Preble county, and certainly deserves honorable mention among the leading residents of Preble county.

MRS. KATHARINE OAKES WELSH.

Mrs. Katharine Oakes Welsh is a native of Callaway county, Missouri, and a daughter of Jeremiah and Catherine (Stutes) Oakes. Her paternal grandfather, Edward Prince Oakes, came to southwestern Indiana in the pioneer days, locating near Fairfield, Indiana. He married Elizabeth Mitchell, a representative of one of the prominent families of Massachusetts, while he came of an old family of Maine, in which state he was born. In the fall of 1841 Jeremiah Oakes and his wife removed to Missouri, but soon afterward left that state and returned to Fairfield, Indiana, where he died in December, 1845. Catherine Stutes was his second wife and survived him for forty years.

Katharine Oakes began her education in the public schools, attending the high school of Dayton, Ohio, and in 1869 was graduated at Antioch College with the degree of Bachelor of Arts. She subsequently engaged in teaching, following that profession for seventeen years. In 1864-5 she was a teacher of the high school at Washington Court House, and in 1865-6 she taught in the pub-

lic schools of Eaton. During the succeeding scholastic year she was at Antioch College. She taught at Milledgeville, Fayette county, Ohio, in the year 1867-8. On the 14th of February, 1870, she returned to Eaton, where she began teaching in the high school, remaining there for more than two years. From 1872 to 1874 she was the principal of the high school and Northern Building in Springfield, Ohio; from 1874 to 1878 she was the principal of the high school at Ravenna, Portage county, Ohio; and in 1878-9 taught in the preparatory department of Antioch College, at the same time instructing a private class of young ladies. Her first teaching was done in the Southwest District school, in Dayton, Ohio, being employed in the absence of the regular teacher, though she was then but twelve years of age. The first compensation she ever received for teaching was five dollars, obtained for giving instruction in the first five books of geometry, at Yellow Springs, Ohio.

On the 11th of September, 1879, she became the second wife of James B. Welsh, of Eaton, Ohio, by whom she has one son, James Oakes, now a student in the high school of this city. As a teacher Mrs. Welsh was very successful. She became prominently known among the educators of the state and gained a very enviable reputation as a representative of the profession. To her efforts was largely due the introduction and upbuilding of the Eaton high school in its beginning. In religious faith Mrs. Welsh is of the Disciples' church. Of scholarly attainments, strong mentality, keen discernment and foresight, aided by diplomacy and culture, she is a lady of remarkable ability and has left a favorable impress of her character in the various relations of life in which she has been called.

JOHN PARKER.

One of the most enterprising and progressive business men of Preble county is John Parker, who resides in Jackson township, where he is successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was born on the 15th of April, 1858, in the township which is still his home, his parents being Asher and Harriet (Larsh) Parker. The father was born in Monmouth county, New Jersey, on the 24th of March, 1828, and when six years of age came with his parents to Ohio, the family locating in Butler county, where they remained for a year, and then removed to Sommers township, just west of Camden, in Preble county, where the grandparents, Lewis and Mary (Smith) Parker, spent their remaining days. They were both natives of Monmouth county, New Jersey, and the former was a son of William and Mary (Smith) Parker. They, too, were natives of the same state, and the Parkers were originally from Ireland, the first American emigrants reaching this country at an early period in its development. The maternal grandparents of our subject were John and Lydia (Truax) Larsh. The former was of French descent, became one of the pioneer settlers of Preble county and was a well-known farmer of Dixon township.

Asher Parker was reared upon the home farm and was married on the 2d of March, 1852, to Miss Harriet Larsh, who was born in Dixon township, August 10, 1828. They began their domestic life on a farm on section 20, Jackson township, where Mr. Parker operated one hundred and eighty acres belonging to his father. There he remained for twelve years, after which he purchased one hundred and sixty-three acres on section 26, Jackson township, making his

home thereon until 1886, when he disposed of that property and purchased his present farm of two hundred and sixty acres on sections 35 and 36, of the same township. Here he has since resided and has been very successful in his business undertakings. He is now living retired, having acquired a competence which enables him to put aside all the more arduous duties of life. In his political views he is a Republican, but has never been an aspirant for office, preferring to devote his time and attention to his business interests, in which he has won a very creditable degree of prosperity. In his family were five children, four of whom are yet living: William, who resides on the home farm, where he was born; John; Lewis, proprietor of a meat market in Eaton; and Ida, wife of Everet Nearon, a farmer of Jackson township.

On the home farm John Parker spent the days of his boyhood and youth and in the common schools of the neighborhood acquired his education. On attaining his majority he began operating a portion of his father's land upon shares, and about 1895 his father retired from the management of the farm and our subject assumed charge. He displays excellent business ability in the conduct of the place, and the well tilled fields, the buildings kept in good repair and improvements in good condition, all indicate the careful supervision of a painstaking and progressive manager.

Mr. Parker is a valued member of Eaton Lodge No. 30, and Preble Encampment, No. 45, I. O. O. F., and has filled all the chairs of the lodge. He also belongs to Waverly Lodge, No. 143, K. P., of Eaton; Dakota Tribe, No. 73, I. O. R. M., of Eaton, of which he is the prophet. In his political affiliations he is a stalwart Republican. He

is recognized as one of the progressive young business men of the county, a favorite of his friends and esteemed by all with whom he has come in contact.

WERTER DAVIS PUGH.

Werter Davis Pugh is one of the most highly respected citizens of Preble county, and his fellow townsmen gave every evidence of their appreciation of his ability by electing him to public office. He is now identified with the agricultural interests of Washington township, but was born in Gasper township, on the 27th of May, 1846, a representative of one of the old southern families. His grandfather, William Pugh, was a native of Georgia and came to Ohio at a pioneer epoch. He was one of the first settlers of Dixon township and there devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits. His son, John Pugh, the father of our subject, was born in Dixon township and in early life learned the blacksmith's trade, following that occupation near the present home of our subject. As a companion and helpmeet on life's journey he chose Miss Mary Moren, daughter of Joseph Moren, who belonged to one of the old families of Ohio. She died in 1847, and Mr. Pugh passed away in 1854. They were both consistent and faithful members of the Methodist Episcopal church and took an active part in its work, Mr. Pugh serving as class leader. This worthy couple had three children: Mary E., wife of J. J. Lewis, of Crawfordsville, Indiana; Joseph, who makes his home in Rushville, Indiana; and Werter Davis, of this review.

Mr. Pugh, whose name forms the caption of this article, received such educational privileges as the public schools af-

forded. Much interested in the civil war and fervently desiring the supremacy of the Union arms, he enlisted in 1864, although only eighteen years of age, and went to the front as a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry. After the war he was employed as a clerk in a store in Camden and since 1866 he has been engaged in farming. Since 1870 he has owned his present farm in Washington township, comprising eighty-four acres, which he has placed under a high state of cultivation. He carries on general farming and the well tilled fields give evidence of his careful supervision. Everything about the place is neat and thrifty in appearance and the owner is recognized as one of the progressive and practical agriculturists of his community.

On the 5th of April, 1870, Mr. Pugh was married to Miss Josephine A. Dooley, a daughter of Isaac H. Dooley and granddaughter of Silas Dooley, Sr. They had two children, but only one is living, Alfred D., who married Nelle Stubbs and resides at home. The daughter-in-law has splendid artistic talents and has won many prizes for fine paintings. In his political affiliations Mr. Pugh is a Republican, and by his fellow townsmen was called to the office of county commissioner in the fall of 1888 for a three-years term. So acceptably did he fill the position that he was re-elected and continued the incumbent for six years, discharging his duties with marked fidelity. He is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity and the Grand Army of the Republic, has many warm friends among the members of those organizations, and is regarded as a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family of the county. His entire life has been passed here and through more than fifty years' connection with the interests of this

community he has ever borne his part in the work that has contributed to the substantial development and improvement of his township, county and state.

JOSIAH JONES.

Josiah Jones is a retired farmer living in New Paris. Years of active connection with agricultural pursuits, in which his well directed efforts brought to him a comfortable competence, well entitles him to the rest which he is now enjoying. He was born in Pennsylvania, November 24, 1833. His father, John Jones, was born in Columbia county, that state, August 22, 1805, a son of Joseph and Catherine Jones. When he had attained man's estate he was joined in wedlock to Patience Newell, who was born in Pennsylvania, March 22, 1806. Three of the brothers—Reuben O., Obadiah E. and Peter—now reside in Minnesota; William is living west of Eaton, in Preble county; George died in Pennsylvania; Mary Jane is the deceased wife of John L. Douglas; and another sister died in early life. Their son, Josiah, was about thirteen years of age when the mother died. He then started out in life for himself and for three years resided on the farm of Peter Mitchell, working in the field and meadow and becoming familiar with all the duties of agricultural life. He afterward went to live with William Hawley, and while there began working by the month as a farm hand, receiving ten dollars per month in compensation for his services. Through almost his entire life he has resided in Preble county, having been brought to the county when a year old. When he first began work he received nothing but his board and clothing in return for his labor, receiving his first wages when he

entered the employ of John Mitchell, with whom he remained for five months. On the expiration of that period he went to the vicinity of Eaton, where he drove a team and attended school for nine days. He continued to work by the month until he was married. Resolute purpose, determined will and unflagging energy are numbered among his chief characteristics and have enabled him to work his way steadily upward.

On the 2d of February, 1860, Mr. Jones was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Mills, of Jefferson township, Preble county. She was born in that township, August 17, 1831. Her father, George Mills, was a native of Ireland and during his boyhood came to America, taking up his abode in Clinton county, Ohio, where he married Cynthia Strong, a native of that locality. They settled in Preble county and Mrs. Mills died when her daughter was about three years old. She was the only daughter of the family and had but one brother, who died when thirteen years old. Her father afterward married Elizabeth Swerer and they became the parents of five children, four now living: Joseph S.; Sarah A., the widow of Albert J. Hawley and a resident of New Paris; William, a farmer of Jefferson township; and Martha J., the wife of James Murry, who resides on a farm four miles southeast of New Paris. The other member of the family was John, who passed away at the age of thirteen. Mrs. Jones remained with her father until his death, which occurred when she was twenty-one years of age. She was educated in the common schools of Jefferson township, and by her marriage she became the mother of two children, but both are now deceased, one having died in infancy, while Frank Oscar died at the age of five months.

After their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Jones located in New Paris and about two months later purchased a farm near the old homestead in Jefferson township. There Mr. Jones carried on general farming until August 18, 1879, when he retired to private life and took up his abode in New Paris, where he erected the residence in which he has since made his home. He still owns his farm, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, and the rental therefrom materially increases his income. He certainly deserves great credit for what he has achieved. He began life for himself amid very unfavorable circumstances and has worked his way upward, overcoming many difficulties and obstacles. During the civil war Mr. Jones manifested his loyalty to the government by responding to President Lincoln's call for volunteers. He joined Company B, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, and served throughout the term of his enlistment as a private, being engaged in guard duty during the greater part of that period of four months. Socially he is connected with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to the lodge in New Paris. He joined the organization in 1859 and is the third oldest member in the lodge, only two of the present representatives having been connected with the society when he joined. He has filled all of the chairs, both in the subordinate lodge and encampment, has aided in initiating many into the order and at all times has been faithful to the beneficent principles upon which this society rests. He is a staunch Republican in politics having joined its organization and loyally upheld its banner since that time. His life has been well spent. Fidelity to every manly principle and faithfulness to every duty have gained

for him the high reward of all with whom he has been associated, and now he is enjoying a test which he has truly earned and richly deserves.

HENRY BROWN.

One of the leading farmers of Monroe township, Henry Brown, whose home is on section 9, is a representative of one of the oldest and most highly respected families of Preble county. He was born in Monroe township, March 10, 1850, and is the oldest living son of John and Sarah (Banta) Brown, of whom more extended mention is made in connection with the sketch of John Brown on another page of this volume.

Our subject attended the district schools near his boyhood home, and acquired an excellent knowledge of farm work while assisting his father. He remained under the parental roof until twenty-six years of age, when he was married, October 12, 1876, to Miss Eliza McClure, the oldest daughter of David and Martha (Kyle) McClure, of Butler township, Darke county, Ohio, where she was born, reared and educated. Mr. and Mrs. Brown have three sons: Harley E., born in Monroe township, Preble county, April 26, 1879; Glenn D., born October 30, 1886; and Ray M., born August 16, 1890. All are at home.

After his marriage Mr. Brown located on his father's farm, on section 12, Monroe township, where he remained about two years, and then removed to the J. W. Leas farm, west of West Manchester, where he was engaged in general farming until 1887, when he bought the farm where he now resides, but did not locate thereon until the following year. Here he has sixty-one acres of rich and fertile land, which he has

placed under a high state of cultivation. He has also made many improvements upon the place, including the erection of a pleasant, modern, six-room residence, in 1899, at a cost of eight hundred dollars. He is a thorough and skillful farmer and is meeting with well deserved success in his labors. Politically he is identified with the Democratic party and has served as township trustee one term. He is a member of the Christian church and is held in high regard by all who know him.

CHARLES SCHREEL.

One of the most important industries of this section of Ohio is the cultivation, preparation and sale of tobacco, and of this enterprise Mr. Schreel is a worthy representative. He deals in leaf tobacco in Eldorado and is also conducting an extensive and successful grain trade. The salient features in his prosperity are his close application and indefatigable industry, and his life record should serve to encourage others who are forced to depend upon their own exertions for advancement in the field of commerce.

A native of the Buckeye state, Mr. Schreel was born in Montgomery county, on the 12th of February, 1842, and is of German lineage. His father, George Schreel, was born in Germany, and when a young man crossed the Atlantic to the new world, locating in Montgomery county, Ohio, where he was united in marriage to Miss Rosa (Gentner) a native of Pennsylvania. They located in Montgomery county and there remained until 1857, the year of their removal to Preble county. The father was a cooper by trade, but after coming to Preble county he followed farming in Twin township, in connection with cooper-

ing, and also engaged in the manufacture of sorghum. Both he and his wife died upon the old family homestead, the former at the age of seventy-six years and the latter at the age of seventy-four. In their family were fourteen children, but only five are living at the time of this writing—the summer of 1900.

Mr. Schreel is the second in order of birth. He spent the first fourteen years of his life in the county of his nativity and began his education in the public schools there. He then came with his parents to Preble county and remained at home until 1861, when, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he offered his services to the government, enlisting as a member of Company E, Seventy-first Ohio Infantry. He remained at the front for over three years and participated in the battles of Fort Donelson, Shiloh, Atlanta, Lovejoy's Station, Elk River, Franklin, Nashville and many others of lesser importance. He was captured at Clarksville, Tennessee, but was afterward exchanged. At Hartsville, however, he was once more captured, but succeeded in making his escape by running away and hiding in a corn field. He was never seriously wounded and was always found at his post of duty, faithfully defending the old flag and the cause it represented. When his term had expired, he received an honorable discharge at Nashville, Tennessee, in December, 1864, and with an honorable military record returned to his home in Preble county. He then attended school for a short time, after which he entered upon his business career as a clerk in a hotel at West Alexandria, where he remained for about nine months.

On the expiration of that period Mr. Schreel removed to Darke county, Ohio, where he conducted a saw-mill and also en-

gaged in general merchandising for two years at Poplar Ridge. He then sold out and in January, 1870, came to Preble county, locating in Eldorado, where he established a general mercantile store, which he successfully conducted for twenty-four years. He then disposed of the establishment to his son-in-law, H. H. Minnich, who still conducts the business, while Mr. Schreel devotes his energies to dealing in grain and leaf tobacco. He has here a grain elevator, which he erected in 1896, and which has a capacity of twenty thousand bushels, and is operated by a forty-horse-power engine. He handles all kinds of grain and seeds and his business has reached extensive proportions. He also enjoys a large trade as a dealer in leaf tobacco and his sales annually bring him a good income.

In 1869 Mr. Schreel was united in marriage to Miss Mary Oswalt, a native of Greenville, Darke county, Ohio, and a daughter of William and Sarah J. (Willis) Oswalt. Their marriage has been blessed with one daughter and one son: Jennie, now the wife of H. H. Minnich, an enterprising merchant of Eldorado; and Frank U., who was born in Eldorado, May 27, 1879, and has been associated with his father in business since 1899, being admitted to partnership at the age of twenty years. They also lost one child, Bessie, who died at the age of two months.

Mr. Schreel belongs to Eldorado Lodge, No. 389, K. of P., and is a member of the Universalist church. He gives his support to every measure which he believes will promote the public good along social, material, educational and moral lines, and has long been one of the most active factors in business affairs in the village which he makes his home. His efforts have been crowned

with a high degree of success, and he is now the owner of considerable property which stands as a monument to his thrift and industry.

FRANK DALRYMPLE.

Upon one of the fine farms in Washington township, Preble county, Frank Dalrymple makes his home, his time and energies being devoted to agricultural pursuits, in which he is meeting with signal success. He was born in Monroe township, on the 14th of April, 1859, and is a son of John and Catherine (Garber) Dalrymple. His father, John Dalrymple, was a native of Jefferson township, and in early life learned the carpenter's trade, which he followed in connection with farming. He married Catherine, daughter of Edward Garber, a native of Ireland. She is still living, at the age of sixty-five years, but Mr. Dalrymple died in May, 1896. They had taken up their abode in Washington township in 1871, and here Mrs. Dalrymple still makes her home. By her marriage she became the mother of seven children, who are still living, namely: Sarah, now Mr. J. J. Kayler, Frank J., of this review; Alice, who is the widow of F. D. Harshman and resides with her mother; Henry, who is living near the old homestead; Libbie, wife of W. S. Johnson, of Washington township; Ora J., at home, and Clarence L., who is living in Washington township.

Mr. Dalrymple, whose name begins this record, was reared on the farm and obtained his education in the common schools, although his advantages were somewhat limited, owing to the necessity that he should operate the farm. At the age of twenty-three years he began farming on his own

account and in 1882 he purchased his present property, consisting of a valuable tract of one hundred and sixty-five acres. He now successfully carries on general farming and his fields are well tilled, while his improvements are modern, being such as are found upon a model farm of the twentieth century. He has served for six years as township trustee and has labored earnestly for its advancement and general welfare.

On Christmas day, 1881, occurred the marriage of Mr. Dalrymple and Miss Laura A. Kayler, daughter of William Kayler, of Washington township. Six children were born to them, of whom four are yet living, namely: Charles A., John A., Earl O. and Mary M. Mrs. Dalrymple is a member of the Lutheran church and an estimable lady, whose many good qualities have gained for her high regard. Mr. Dalrymple deserves great credit for his success in life. Faithfulness to duty and strict adherence to a fixed purpose will do more to advance a man's interests than wealth or advantageous circumstances. The successful men of the day are they who have planned their own advancement and have accomplished it in spite of many obstacles and with a certainty quite often attained only through their own efforts. Such has been the life record of Mr. Dalrymple, who is now numbered among the leading farmers of Washington township.

CHARLES MILLER.

Charles Miller has retired from farming and is enjoying a rest which is the fitting reward of his years of continuous and honorable labor. He was born in Germany, on the 1st of April, 1837, and was a son of Jacob Miller, a stone mason and contractor,

whose birth also occurred in that country. Our subject spent the first seventeen years of his life in the land of his nativity, pursuing his education in the public schools. Thinking to better his financial conditions, he resolved to come to America, and made his way as far as the coast. There his funds became exhausted, and, not having money enough to pay his passage, he was forced to abandon the trip until 1854, when he crossed the Atlantic, landing in New York. He at once made his way westward and became a resident of Lanier township, Preble county, where he worked by the month as a farm hand until he was twenty-three years of age. His industry and enterprise in that time brought to him capital sufficient to enable him to purchase a farm. He became the owner of a tract of land in Mercer county, which he operated for ten years, when he sold out and bought a farm in Washington township, Preble county. Here he owns one hundred and eighty-two acres of rich and arable land, which is now rented to his son, and through a long period he was actively connected with its development and improvement and was regarded as one of the leading farmers of his neighborhood. His methods were progressive and practical and his success was founded upon the reliable quality of unflagging industry.

On the 14th of February, 1861, Mr. Miller was united in marriage to Miss Anna, daughter of Frederick Stancy, of Germany. They became the parents of six children: Mary, wife of Joseph C. Stover, who is living near Eaton; William E., a resident of Kansas City, Missouri; Hattie, wife of C. M. Rader, a lawyer of Walla Walla, Washington, who is now filling the position of state's attorney; Frank, who married Lulu Wilkin, and is a farmer of Washington

township; Lizzie, wife of Clarence McWhinney, of Preble county; and John E., who married Maggie Gillen and is operating his father's farm. Both Mr. and Mrs. Miller became members of the Eaton Christian church and were very active workers therein, but Mrs. Miller's labors were ended in death on the 14th of June, 1897, when she was called to the home beyond. She was a faithful wife, a loving mother and a considerate friend, greatly beloved by all who knew her. Mr. Miller is an influential and prominent member of the church, is serving as trustee and as a member of the official board, and was a member of the building committee at the time of the erection of the new church. From the little German home across the sea he made his way to the new world and entered upon a career which seems most marvelous, yet it is not the outcome of propitious circumstances, but is the honest reward of labor, good management, ambition and energy—without which no man can win prosperity.

JOHN H. BENNETT.

John H. Bennett is now living retired on his farm in Somers township but for many years carried agricultural pursuits there. He was born in Maysville, Kentucky, November 27, 1815. His grandparents were William and Sarah Bennett and they had a family of ten children, eight sons and two daughters, all of whom reached mature years and married. Two members of the family died in Louisville, Kentucky, one in San Francisco and the others in Oxford. The grandmother died when well advanced in years, but the grandfather was again married and had a daughter by the second union. John Bennett, the father of

our subject, was born in 1786, and was probably a native of Virginia. He removed to Kentucky, where he married Elizabeth Hopper, who was born in that state in 1789. They became the parents of eleven children, and six sons and four daughters reached mature years. The only surviving one is John H. Bennett, who is the fourth in order of birth. With one exception all of the children were married and reared families of their own and all became residents of this section of Ohio. The father died June 14, 1866, and his wife passed away April 7, 1877.

John H. Bennett was reared in Preble county from the age of three years and acquired a fair common-school education. All was wild and unimproved in this section of the country during his boyhood, much of the land being still in its primitive condition. Large tracts of forest land were uncleared and the homes of the pioneers were widely scattered. He assisted in the work of his father's farm until his marriage, which occurred on the 15th of August, 1840, Miss Eliza M. Macy becoming his wife. She was a daughter of Stephen and Mary (Gardner) Macy. The children born of this union were five in number, four sons and a daughter. Telemicus, the eldest, who was educated in Louisville, Kentucky, and became a practicing physician of the regular school in Broad Ripple, Indiana, has a wife and three children, two daughters and a son. David F., who conducted a hotel in Cincinnati, died March 21, 1896, leaving two sons, who are located in Chicago. Mary E. is the widow of James M. Barnett and has two sons: E. O. Barnett, a well educated man who has filled many prominent positions, and who is now married and has two children; and Frank J. Hamrich, who

is married and has one son. Rush S. is proprietor of the Arlington House of Camden and has one daughter and two sons. William G. studied medicine, but is now a commercial traveler with headquarters at Indianapolis, Indiana.

In his political views Mr. Bennett is a Republican, served as assessor for one year and has been road commissioner since 1851, in which year the Somers and Grati's free pike was built by him. Throughout his business career he has carried on farming and still owns eighty-six acres of land, but is practically living retired at the present time. He also worked at the cooper's trade during the winter seasons for about ten years and through this dual employment acquired a comfortable competence which now enables him to rest from the more arduous duties of life. He and his most estimable wife have been members of the Methodist church for over half a century and he has served as steward for many years. He has sat under forty-two different pastors in one church, covering a period of seventy years and has always been at his place in the house of worship until very recently. He yet attends in good weather and throughout his entire life has exemplified his earnest Christian belief.

For more than a quarter of a century Mr. Bennett has witnessed the growth and development of the county. His memory goes back to the days when he pursued his education in a log school house with paper windows and puncheon seats. There were no wagon-roads at the time of the arrival of the family in Preble county and they found their way through the forest by the aid of blazed trees. Their nearest neighbor was eight miles away and Camden contained only three log houses. They took

their grist on horseback to Oxford, a distance of twelve miles, where there was a treadmill operated by four oxen. There was no postoffice near here until the one at Camden was established, and for some time afterward the mail was received only twice a week, it being carried on horseback. Not only has Mr. Bennett been an eye witness of the wonderful growth which has occurred in the county, but at all times has borne his part in the work of progress and improvement, withholding his support from no measure which he believed would prove of public good. He is indeed an honored pioneer and one whose close identification with the interests of this section of the state well entitles him to representation in this volume.

JOHN McWHINNEY.

Long actively and honorably connected with the agricultural interests of Preble county, John McWhinney, now deceased, was a valued representative of his community and his loss was deeply mourned. He was one of the native sons of Jackson township, Preble county, born August 23, 1819, his parents being John and Mary (Dugan) McWhinney, who emigrated from Knox county, Tennessee, to Preble county in 1815 or 1816, settling in Jackson township, on the Richmond and Eaton pike road, near New Westville. The father, John McWhinney, was a well-known farmer and stock buyer, being one of the representative men of the county in the early days. He was twice married. After the death of his first wife, who was the mother of the subject of this review, he married a widow named Alexander, and they soon afterward removed to

Wayne county, Indiana, where he passed the residue of his days.

John McWhinney was principally reared and educated in Wayne county, Indiana, having been a mere child when his parents removed to that locality. He first wedded Miss Cynthia Adams and they became the parents of four children, all of whom are now deceased, and after the death of his first wife he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah J. Moore, who still survives him. After his marriage he devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits, locating on a farm owned by his father, and after the death of the latter he purchased the old homestead, this being some years later. It continued to be his home until 1856, when he disposed of the property and came to the present homestead farm of two hundred and thirteen acres, in Jackson township, where he lived up to the hour of his death, which occurred June 2, 1895. He was a successful farmer and was a man who ordered his life upon the most lofty plane of integrity and honor. His sterling character gained to him the confidence and esteem of all with whom he came in contact and his life was a benediction to those near and dear to him. He was an ardent supporter of the Republican party, and in religious belief he was reared a Presbyterian, uniting with this denomination some years prior to his demise. While in no sense a seeker for public preferment, he was called upon to serve in various township offices, having been a justice of the peace and township trustee.

He married Sarah J. Moore, who was born in Adams county, Ohio, April 16, 1834, being the daughter of Milton and Jane (Paul) Moore. Her mother died when the daughter was about six years of age, and ten years later her father died and she came

to Preble county to make her home with an aunt, on the maternal side of the family, and here was eventually consummated her marriage to John McWhinney. She is a devoted member of the old-school Presbyterian church. John and Sarah J. McWhinney became the parents of five children, of whom the only survivors are Edward F. and John L., the former an enterprising farmer of Jackson township.

The latter is a representative of one of the old and honored pioneer families of Preble county, and here he is personally recognized as one of the progressive and influential farmers, his fine homestead being located on section 7, Jackson township, where he is successfully carrying on operations according to modern scientific plans. John L. McWhinney grew to maturity on the old homestead, being accorded the advantages of the common schools. As he approached manhood, being the only son at home, the responsibilities of the farm management early devolved upon him, his father being near the meridian of his life and leaning more and more on the shoulders of the younger man, who was ever glad to show his filial solicitude and to do all in his power to further the temporal interests of his parents. Thus he had the practical management of the farm when but eighteen years of age, and after the death of his father he and his mother acquired the homestead, where they have ever since made their home, Mr. McWhinney having been deservedly successful in his efforts, in which he has been fortified by experience and strong intellectual forces.

On the 30th of November, 1899, Mr. McWhinney was united in marriage to Miss Abbie Smith, who was born in Jackson township, the daughter of Elisha and Mary

Smith, well known citizens of the county. Politically Mr. McWhinney gives his support to the Republican party; religiously he is a member of the Society of Friends, and fraternally is identified with Harmony Lodge, No. 396, Knights of Pythias. He is known as one of the progressive young farmers of the county and enjoys a distinct popularity in social circles here.

AARON BRUBAKER.

Aaron Brubaker is now living retired upon his farm adjoining the corporation limits of the town of Winchester. His rest is well deserved, being the fitting reward of many years of active toil and close and honorable connection with agricultural interests of Preble county. He was born in Lanier township, October 23, 1854. His father, Jacob Brubaker, was a native of Gratis township, born a mile and a half west of Winchester, on the 18th of September, 1827. The grandfather, John Brubaker, like many of the well known and honored pioneer settlers of the state, was a native of Rockingham county, Virginia. His birth occurred there in 1877 and he died in Preble county in 1846. The mother of our subject bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Flory and was a daughter of Marylis Flory. She became the wife of Jacob Brubaker in 1846 and they located on a farm in Lanier township in 1847 or 1848. There the father made his first purchase of land, becoming owner of eighty acres. When he had cleared off all the indebtedness on that property he purchased one hundred acres additional and added to that from time to time until his landed possessions aggregated three hundred and forty acres. He was a very industrious and hardworking man and car-

ried on general farming, also making a specialty of the raising of hogs. He likewise kept cattle and sheep, feeding all of his farm products to his stock, except his wheat, of which he raised from eight to fifteen hundred bushels annually. Thus his income was materially augmented, for wheat in those days brought from a dollar to a dollar and a half per bushel.

Mr. Brubaker was a Republican in his political affiliations and took an active interest in educational affairs. In his family were fourteen children, of whom six sons and seven daughters reached mature years. All were married and, with one exception, all had families, so that there were twenty-five grandsons and twelve granddaughters. One of the children, Sarah Ann, died at the age of three years, and Minerva, who became the wife of John Ozias, died at the age of twenty-eight, leaving a son and a daughter. The first born of this family was Joseph Brubaker, whose birth occurred in September, 1848. He has been twice married and has four living children. Mrs. Marylis Rinehart, a widow, is the second in order of birth. Henry C. is engaged in farming near the old homestead. Mary Jane is the wife of Daniel Eikenberry. Aaron is the fifth in order of birth and Eli is the sixth of the family. Christiana is the wife of John Brubaker. Nancy married John Wagner. Amos and Marcus were ninth and tenth. Lydia is the wife of Henry Denlinger and Cora is the wife of William Denlinger. The living members of this family are all residents of Preble county. The father died August 15, 1894, but his widow is still living on the old homestead, where she is still enjoying life at the age of seventy years.

The children of this family received

good common-school privileges and Aaron Brubaker remained under the parental roof throughout the period of his minority. He worked in the fields through the summer months and in the winter season pursued his studies. He had small capital when he started out in life on his own account and for some time he engaged in threshing. His first purchase of land comprised eleven acres in Lanier township. For seven years he was engaged in the manufacture of drain tiling and found it a very profitable source of income, his business in that way steadily increasing. In the fall of 1882 he came to his present home in Gratis township, purchasing one hundred and fifty-four acres of land, to which he has since added a tract of twenty-two acres. He has a large and commodious frame residence, which he erected in 1892. He has also built excellent tobacco sheds and other outbuildings and successfully carried on general farming until 1898, since which time his land has been operated by tenants, one of whom is his foster son, Joseph Jordan, who lived with him between the ages of fourteen and twenty-five years. At the latter date he was married and is now operating the greater part of the Brubaker farm. As an agriculturist our subject won prosperity, his well directed labors enabling him to secure good returns from his crops and stock.

On the 23d of July, 1878, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Brubaker and Miss Clara Eikenberry, who was born in Lanier township and is a daughter of Christian and Sarah (Young) Eikenberry, both of whom are yet living. The father was a carpenter and farmer. In his family were two daughters, Mrs. Brubaker and Laura, the latter now the wife of William Williams. Mr. and Mrs. Brubaker have one

child, a daughter, at home. Serious illness has caused her to suffer greatly from deafness, but she is very quick to read the lips and looks of those she knows and has little or no difficulty in understanding her parents. She is very studious and rapid with her pen, and is a young lady of culture and refinement. Mr. Brubaker is a member of and local minister in the German Baptist church, and in politics is a Republican. He is one of forty-four farmers belonging to the Winchester Telephone Association and became one of its charter members. This club has telephone connection with West Elkton, Camden, Eaton, West Alexandria, Farmersville and Ingomar, all direct, and can reach points much further through other lines. His enterprising spirit and his determined purpose have been salient features in his success and have enabled him to work his way steadily upward, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles in his path until he now occupies a leading position among the representative citizens of the community.

JOHN JACOB KAYLER:

Labor forms the foundation of all prosperity, and it is to his enterprising and well directed efforts that our subject owes his position as a leading and representative farmer of Washington township, Preble county. He was born November 17, 1849, on the farm which is still his home and which has been in possession of the family for eighty-five years. His father, William Kayler, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, in 1808, a son of John and Catherine (Haynes) Kayler. They, too, were natives of Rockingham county, the former born in 1776 and the latter in 1782. With their family they emigrated westward, tak-

ing up their abode in Ohio in 1814. John Kayler served in the war of 1812. There was quite a romantic chapter in his life record, occasioned by his elopement. The lady whom he loved was the daughter of wealthy parents, her father owning a large plantation and many slaves. On account of the poverty of Mr. Kayler the parents opposed him, and in consequence an elopement was the result. After their marriage they remained in Virginia for ten years, and then on account of the unfriendly spirit of her parents they decided to come west. Arriving in Ohio they cast in their lot with the pioneer settlers of Preble county and here spent their remaining days, the grandfather of our subject passing away in 1856, while his wife was called to her final rest in 1862.

William Kayler was only six years of age when he accompanied his parents to the Buckeye state. He experienced the usual hardships and trials which fall to the lot of pioneer settlers and was reared to the work of the farm, following the plow almost as soon as old enough to reach the handles. In 1837 he wedded Rebecca Delawater, who came to Ohio from Maryland in 1822. His death occurred in 1876 and his wife, surviving for some years, passed away in 1890. In his business affairs he was quite successful and was accounted one of the leading landowners of this locality, having seven hundred and forty acres of land in addition to considerable money. He was an active and influential member of the Lutheran church, in which he long held office, and to the support of the church he contributed very liberally. In politics he was a zealous Democrat. In his family were eleven children, eight of whom are yet living, namely: Josiah, a resident of Union City, Indiana; Mary Jane, wife of Samuel Kesler, of Monroe township,

Preble county; Malinda, wife of F. C. Harshman, of Eaton; John J., of this review; Eliza, wife of J. B. Everding, of Twin township; Sarah, wife of Henry Ehler; Laura, wife of F. J. Dalrymple, and Olive E., wife of George Ehler, of West Alexandria.

Mr. Kayler, whose name introduces this review, pursued his education in the country schools and spent his boyhood upon the old family homestead. In 1875 he purchased a farm in the same locality, and when his father died he bought the interests of the other heirs in the home property which he has since owned and operated. He has here three hundred and eighty-eight acres of valuable land and is successfully carrying on general farming. He also raises hogs on an extensive scale, and that branch of his business brings to him a good income. All his trade transactions are carried on with the strictest regard for the ethics of commercial life, and in business circles his reputation for honesty is above question.

Mr. Kayler belongs to Bolivar Lodge, A. F. & A. M., of Eaton, and has filled all of the offices in the Knights of Pythias fraternity. He is also a Forester, is trustee of that lodge and has been a representative to the grand lodge. A Democrat in his political affiliations, he was a candidate for sheriff in 1892, but was defeated. He has served on the school board, and for fourteen years was a member of the agricultural board, serving for three years as its vice-president.

On the 28th of October, 1875, occurred the marriage of Mr. Kayler and Miss Sarah Dalrymple, a daughter of John Dalrymple, of Preble county. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Kayler have been born six children, five of whom are yet living, namely: Benjamin,

who since early life has served as a Sunday-school teacher and is now superintendent of the Sunday-school; Estie, Charles and Bertha, all intelligent and interesting children. The parents are very active and zealous members of the Christian church of Eaton and take a leading part in its work, doing all in their power to promote its growth and success. Mr. Kayler contributes liberally to its support and withholds his co-operation from no public movement or measure which he believes will prove of benefit to the community.

ABSALOM HOLTRY.

This well-known retired farmer of Lewisburg, was born January 8, 1834, in Montgomery county, Ohio, two miles east of Germantown, and comes of good old Revolutionary stock, some of his paternal ancestors having aided the colonies in their struggle for independence. His father, Peter Holtry, was a native of Pennsylvania, but was reared in Maryland, about twenty-five miles from Baltimore, having removed to the latter state with his father, George Holtry, also a native of Pennsylvania, and a farmer by occupation. In 1825 the latter took his family to Montgomery county, Ohio, where he bought a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, for fourteen hundred dollars, and resided thereon for fifteen years. There Peter Holtry married Susan Showers, a native of Kentucky, and a daughter of Abram Showers, who was born in Germany and came to this country during the Revolutionary war, in which he took an active part. After peace was restored he located in Kentucky, where he taught a German school until his death, which occurred when Mrs. Holtry was only five years

old. He had married in Pennsylvania prior to going to Kentucky. After her father's death Mrs. Holtry was taken to the home of an uncle, but for five years before her marriage she earned her own living. On coming to this state she settled in Salem, Montgomery county, but was married to Mr. Holtry in Germantown. The following three years were passed in that county, at the end of which time the father of our subject purchased eighty acres of school land in Twin township, Preble county, where they made their home until 1859 and then moved to another farm on Pine creek, where he died at the age of seventy-three years. He was a consistent member of the Reformed church and in politics was first a Whig and later a Democrat. He was a very prominent and influential man in his community and was called upon to fill nearly all of the township offices, including those of clerk and justice of the peace. He engaged in teaching school at one time and always wrote with a goose quill. His estimable wife died at the age of sixty-three years. They had three children, namely: Sarah, who is living in Preble county, at the age of seventy years; Absalom, our subject, and George, who died at about the age of twenty-three years.

Absalom Holtry was only three years old when the family removed to Twin township, Preble county, where he grew to manhood, attending the district schools and assisting his father in the labors of the farm. On the 4th of December, 1862, he was united in marriage to Miss Elizabeth Beam, who was born in German township, Montgomery county, June 18, 1839, her parents, John W. and Polly (Ozias) Beam, being among the pioneers of this locality. Her mother was born and reared in Twin town-

ship and belonged to one of its oldest families. Both parents were of German descent. Our subject and his wife have one daughter, Adda V., now the wife of William Schaffer, a dealer in groceries and queensware at St. Mary's, Auglaize county, Ohio, by whom she has two sons, Carl and Ralph.

For sixteen years after his marriage Mr. Holtry remained on his father's farm, successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising, and as he prospered in his undertakings he also loaned money. After the death of his father he purchased the interests of the other heirs in the old homestead and continued to reside thereon until his removal to Lewisburg in 1887. He still owns the farm and also another in Harrison township, and has three houses in Lewisburg, one of which he occupies, while he rents the other two. He continues to loan money. A man of keen perception and unbounded enterprise, his success in life is due to his own efforts and he deserves prominent mention among the leading and representative business men of the county. As a Democrat he was elected one of the trustees of Twin township, and was a member of the board for several years, his services giving the utmost satisfaction to his constituents.

JACOB URICH.

Jacob Urich is a well-known agriculturist of Gratis township, and the success which he has achieved is the merited reward of his own labors. He has worked his way steadily upward, overcoming all the difficulties and obstacles in his path by determined purpose. His resolute spirit has enabled him to advance steadily, and to-day he is one of the most substantial citizens of the commu-



Jacob Wick



Caroline Ulrich

nity, his labors having brought to him a handsome competence.

Mr. Urich claims Ohio as the state of his nativity, for his birth occurred in Montgomery county, on the 7th of May, 1851. His father, John Urich, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, July 12, 1819, and the grandfather, Christian Urich, and the great-grandfather of our subject, were both natives of France, having been born in Strasburg, Alsace Lorraine, which is now a part of Germany. The paternal grandfather of our subject married a Miss Houtz, whose father was a large distiller and the son-in-law engaged in business with the elder man. Coming to America, he followed the same pursuit and took the products of his still by team to Philadelphia, whence he brought back merchandise. In 1833 he left the Keystone state, removing to Ohio. He was accompanied by his wife and four children, and after their arrival in the Buckeye state the family circle was increased by the birth of another child. The record is as follows: John was the father of our subject. Elizabeth became the wife of John Eagle, now an octogenarian. She died in Montgomery county, at the age of seventy-seven years. The third of the family was a daughter who died in early life. Lydia became the wife of Mr. Gottshall, farmer of Montgomery county. Jonathan also carried on farming in Montgomery county. The grandfather of our subject died in 1878, and his wife survived him for six years, passing away at the advanced age of eighty-three.

John Urich accompanied his parents on their removal to Ohio and was actively identified with the work of developing a pioneer farm. Having attained man's estate he wedded Mary Shade, a native of Pennsyl-

vania, and of German descent. She was born January 22, 1822, and their wedding was celebrated in Ohio in 1843. They lived for one year upon the old Urich homestead and then took up their abode in Jackson township, Montgomery county, but in 1883 removed to Gratis township, Preble county. Their old farm of seventy acres in the former county is now owned by the mother of our subject, who lives in Preble county with Jacob Urich, her only son. She also had but one daughter, Mary, who became the wife of Henry Rumbarger and died in 1870. She had two children, who died in infancy. Mr. Urich, the father of our subject, passed away on the 14th of August, 1888. He began life without property, but by industry and economy secured some capital which he invested judiciously. To his first purchase he added from time to time and ultimately became the owner of seven hundred acres in Montgomery and Preble counties. His capable management, his untiring industry and his thrift secured to him marked success, and he was widely known as a most enterprising and progressive agriculturist. Both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran church.

Jacob Urich, whose name introduces this review, is indebted to the common-school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He remained upon the home farm in Montgomery county and assisted his father in its cultivation and improvement. He was married in 1883 to Miss Alice Bear, who died in 1885, leaving an infant son, John, who died when eight months old. On January 24, 1899, Mr. Urich was again married, his second union being with Miss Caroline Prugh, of Indiana, a daughter of Abner and Nancy (Matthews) Prugh.

Her mother died about 1885, leaving eight children, five sons and three daughters. The father is still living and yet resides upon the old homestead farm.

Mr. Urich is successfully carrying on agricultural pursuits and for twenty-five years has made a specialty of the raising of tobacco, planting from sixty-five to seventy acres to that crop. It had proved a very paying one, and in order to better continue his labors along that line Mr. Urich has erected six large tobacco sheds. The sales of that plant annually brings to him from four to six thousand dollars. The first purchase which the father made in Preble county was a tract of one hundred and thirty-five acres, upon which was a brick house and mill. In June, 1888, he bought an adjoining farm of three hundred and eighteen acres, upon which was a brick residence and also a frame house. Later he built a large barn here. Mr. Urich has inherited much of this property and is now operating in all six farms, aggregating over eleven hundred acres. He raises about five thousand bushels of wheat annually and now has a like amount on hand in his own warehouse. He has never made a specialty of stock-raising. His corn crop is from ten to twenty thousand bushels annually. Mr. Urich is the largest landowner in his township, and his farming interests, carried on on an extensive scale, have brought to him a handsome financial return. He also loans money on farming property. His political support is given the Republican party and he is a member of the Lutheran church. His life has been one of great activity and his widely recognized business ability has brought to him splendid success. He has a very wide acquaintance in this section of the state and his honesty in all trade transactions, his reliability in

discharging his duties of citizenship and his fidelity to the interests of private life have won him marked esteem.

CLEMENT V. WILKINSON.

One of the most progressive of the younger representatives of the agricultural interests of Preble county is Clement V. Wilkinson, who was born in Dixon township, on the 6th of April, 1864. He belongs to one of the pioneer families of the state. His paternal grandfather, Gideon Wilkinson, was a native of Northumberland county, Pennsylvania, and came to the Buckeye state in 1808, locating in Butler county, where he purchased a tract of land from a Mr. Covalt. It was located in Riley township, and was unimproved, but with characteristic energy he cleared and developed it and thereon made his home until his death, becoming one of the substantial citizens of the community. He owned also three quarter-sections of land in Franklin county, Indiana. He married Abigail Warren, a native of New Jersey and a daughter of Joseph Warren, who was a slaveholder in the early days when it was customary to keep negroes in bondage.

Elisha Wilkinson, the father of our subject, was born in Butler county, Ohio, December 27, 1816, was reared upon his father's farm, and in 1836 was married to Miss Rachel Hand. The only child of that marriage is now deceased. After the death of the wife in 1838 Mr. Wilkinson was again married, Miss Rebecca Hazeltine becoming his wife in 1840. She was a native of Hamilton county, Ohio, and a daughter of Rosswell and Wealthy (Fenton) Hazeltine, the former a native of Massachusetts and the latter of New York. She was a sister

of one of New York's governors. After his marriage Mr. Hazeltine purchased a small farm near College Hill, Ohio, and later removed to Butler county. Some years later he took up his residence in Oxford, Ohio, where he made his home until called to his final rest.

After his marriage Elisha Wilkinson located on a farm of one hundred acres in Franklin county, Indiana, given him by his father. It was a tract of timber, but he cleared away the trees and continued the cultivation of the fields until 1856, when he sold the property and came to the farm now owned by his son—a tract of two hundred and twenty acres—to which he afterward added by additional purchases at various times, fifty acres, one hundred and thirty acres and sixteen acres, making his landed possessions aggregate four hundred and sixteen acres. This he subsequently deeded to his children. In addition to farming he purchased and sold live stock and found this a profitable source of income. In politics he is a stanch Democrat, and in former years served for some time as a school director. He is one of the well known men of the county, and through the long years of his residence here has ever commanded the esteem and confidence of his fellow men. He has now passed the eighty-fourth mile stone on life's journey, and has retained his mental and physical faculties almost unimpaired until recently, when his eyesight failed. Of his ten children, five are yet living: Thomas J., of Eaton; Roswell H., of Camden, Ohio; Franklin P., a farmer of Dixon township; Daniel V., who is also engaged in agricultural pursuits in Dixon township, and Clement V.

The last named was reared under the parental roof on the old home farm and is

indebted to the common school system for the educational privileges he received. On attaining his majority he took charge of the old homestead, operating it on the shares. This he continued until the time of his marriage, which was celebrated June 11, 1891, Miss Hettie V. Lamb becoming his wife. She is a native of Union county, Indiana, and a daughter of William and Sarah (Leonard) Lamb. Her father was born in Wayne county, Indiana, March 9, 1838, and is now a prominent farmer of Gasper township, Preble county. He came here in 1882 and purchased one hundred and thirty acres of land. His parents were Joseph Boone and Jeanette (Mustard) Lamb, the former an own cousin of Daniel Boone, while the latter was a native of Scotland. William Lamb first married Jane Starr, and after her death wedded Sarah T. Leonard, who was born in Union county, Indiana, August 18, 1850, a daughter of Jefferson and Eliza (Marshall) Leonard, the former a native of New Jersey. They were farming people.

After his marriage Mr. Wilkinson continued the operation of the old home farm, which he cultivated on the shares, until 1895, when he purchased the home place of eighty-two acres, devoting his energies entirely to the improvement and cultivation of the place, and he is regarded as one of the most practical and progressive agriculturists of his community. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Wilkinson has been blessed with one daughter, Mabel I., who was born May 11, 1892. In his political views Mr. Wilkinson is a Democrat, but is not a strict partisan; and though he supports the men and measures of the Democracy at state and national elections, he often votes irrespective of party at local elections where no national issue is involved.

JOHN H. BLACKFORD.

Rev. John H. Blackford, an honored and highly respected citizen of Eldorado, is a native of Preble county, born in New Westville, Jackson township, April 11, 1843, and on the paternal side is of Scotch descent. His grandfather, Reuben Blackford, was born in New Jersey, in 1786, and on leaving that state went to New York, but at an early day came to Butler county, Ohio, where he continued to make his home until his death, November 4, 1859. By occupation he was a farmer.

Jeremiah Blackford, the father of our subject, was born in Butler county, June 23, 1815, and came to Preble county about 1838. He was a blacksmith by trade and followed that business in Orangeburg and Westville. In religious belief he was a Methodist. He died January 24, 1880. In early manhood he married Sarah Ann Kennedy, who was born in Jefferson township, Preble county, August 14, 1820, and died at the age of thirty-four years. Her father, Robert Kennedy, was a native of Ireland, who came to America when a young man.

Our subject is the third in order of birth and second son in a family of nine children. He was reared in his native place and began his education in the public schools. At the age of seventeen he commenced teaching in the schools of this county, and continued to follow that pursuit until 1866, when he turned his attention to farming, his time being devoted to that occupation until 1871. During the latter year he entered the ministry of the Universalist church and was ordained two years later. He continued to engage in preaching until 1899, since which time he has practically lived retired, having no regular pastorate, though

occasionally filling different pulpits. He located upon his present farm in 1874, and has since devoted a part of his time to its management.

On the 8th of October, 1865, Mr. Blackford was united in marriage with Miss Julia A. Kesler, who was born in Monroe township, Preble county, November 30, 1840, a daughter of Jacob and Susan (Blackford) Kesler. Her father also was born in Preble county, of German descent, while her mother was a native of Warren county, this state, and was a child of three years when brought to this county. Her maternal grandfather, Jeremiah K. Blackford, was born in 1791, while his parents were removing from New Jersey to Kentucky, and in 1896 removed with them to Warren county, Ohio. In 1820 he came to Preble county and located in Monroe township, where he took up government land and improved a farm, making it his home until his death. His first home here was a log house, which in 1831 was replaced by a good brick residence, which is still standing. He, too, was of Scotch descent. The wife of our subject is the younger of two children, and was reared on the old homestead in Monroe township.

Mr. and Mrs. Blackford are the parents of six children, namely: Rev. Harry, born October 17, 1866, is a graduate of the National Normal at Lebanon, and the Divinity School at Tufts College, at Boston, Massachusetts, and is now the pastor of the Walnut Hills church at Cincinnati. He is married and has one child, Ralph Ellis, born in Monson, Massachusetts. Lenore, born June 26, 1868, is a graduate of the Eldorado schools, and for four terms has taught in this county. She resides at home. Rev. Frank, born January 31, 1870, is a graduate of the Lebanon Normal and Tufts

Divinity School, and is now the pastor of the Universalist church at Mason, Ohio. Grace, born January 21, 1873, is the wife of William L. Ricketts, who is engaged in the manufacturing business in Monson, Massachusetts. She, too, is a graduate of the Eldorado schools. Charley, born July 24, 1875, died at the age of four years. George, born June 10, 1881, was educated at the National Normal at Lebanon, Ohio, and is now a student at the Homeopathic Medical College at Cincinnati.

Mr. Blackford is a member of the Grange and is justly regarded as one of the most useful and valued citizens of his community, ever ready to give his support to any enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit. He is a strong temperance man and an ardent supporter of the Prohibition party, taking quite an active and prominent part in its work. Originally he was a Democrat in politics, and in 1868 was the candidate of that party for representative. In 1875 his name appeared on the Prohibition ticket as candidate for the state senate, for congress in 1886, and for clerk of the superior courts in 1883. His life has been exemplary in all respect, and he merits and receives the confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

BENJAMIN F. BEANE, M. D.

A large patronage indicates Dr. Beane's standing in professional circles, for as a physician and surgeon at Eldorado he is well and favorably known. He was born in Twin township, Preble county, on the 3d of October, 1851, and represents one of the early families of the community, his father and grandfather having been identified with the development of this section of the state from pioneer days. The Beane family is

of Dutch lineage. Henry Beane, the grandfather, was born in the Keystone state, whence he removed to Virginia and thence to Preble county, this state, about 1820. His son, Samuel Beane, the Doctor's father, was born in Virginia, about 1810, and when ten years of age came to Ohio. Here he was reared amid the wild scenes of the frontier and later he became actively connected with the agricultural interests, following farming throughout his life. At the end of an active and useful career he passed away at the age of seventy-one. He had married Miss Sarah Mills, a native of New Jersey, who came to Montgomery county, Ohio, with her father, Joshua Mills. She, too, was reared in the Buckeye state and died at the age of eighty-two. On the maternal side the Doctor is of Scotch and Irish lineage. He belonged to a family of fourteen children, but five died in infancy and only six, three sons and three daughters, are now living.

The Doctor was the thirteenth in the family and the youngest son. He was reared in Twin township and began his education in the district schools, after which he continued his studies in Lebanon, Ohio. Subsequently he was a student in the normal school at Medina and was graduated in 1875. Later he engaged in teaching for two terms, but desiring to make the practice of medicine his life work, he began preparation for that calling at the age of twenty-three, pursuing a course in the Eclectic Medical Institute at Cincinnati and was graduated in 1881, but began practice three years before his graduation. He has since been numbered among the representatives of the medical fraternity in Preble county and is now the oldest practicing physician in Monroe township in years of continuous connection with the profes-

sion. He is a member of the State Eclectic Medical Society of Ohio and does all in his power to perfect himself in his chosen calling, realizing its importance and responsibility.

The Doctor was married in Twin township, in 1879, to Miss Ida Shaw, a native of that township, and they became the parents of one son, Carl Wye, whose birth occurred August 12, 1882. He attended the schools in Eldorado and was graduated in 1900. The mother died July 24, 1893, and Dr. Beam was again married July 7, 1895, his second union being with Miss Ella Potterf, a native of Illinois, who came to Preble county during her childhood. In his political affiliations the Doctor is an independent, being no partisan. He holds membership in the Universalist church of Eldorado, is one of its trustees and has served as clerk of the church. His manner is ever courteous and kindly, qualities which promote his success in a professional way. His life has been one of industry and benevolence and the systematic and honorable business methods which he has followed have won for him the support and confidence of his fellow men.

JOHN L. SWAIN.

John Linsey Swain was born on a farm where he yet resides, his birth having occurred on the 25th of April, 1834. For more than six decades, therefore, he has been a witness of the growth and development and has taken deep interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community, giving his support to all measures which he believes to be of public good. His father was Ira Swain, his grandfather Jacob Swain; the latter was a native of Pennsylvania, and the former of Ohio. The latter

brought his family to the Buckeye state at an early day and became a farmer of Jackson township, Preble county. Ira Swain was then a boy, and amidst the wild scenes of the frontier he was reared, experiencing all the hardships and trials incident to pioneer life as well as the pleasures that were common at that day. He became a farmer and industriously managed his business affairs so that they brought to him a good financial return. He married Miss Jane Shidler, daughter of George Shidler, one of the early settlers of the county and a pioneer minister of the Christian church. Mr. and Mrs. Swain became the parents of twelve children, of whom four are now living, namely: Violetta, widow of Jacob Baker, of Indiana; John Linsey; Jacob, who makes his home in Kansas, and Elizabeth, wife of John Vorhees, of Marion, Indiana. The parents of this family were long consistent and faithful members of the Christian church and for many years Mr. Swain served as deacon. He died in 1875 and his wife passed away in 1849.

John Linsey Swain, whose name introduces this review, worked on the farm during the summer months, following the plow and later assisting in harvesting the crops. When the work of the fields was practically over for the year, he pursued his education in the schools near his home. He started out in life on his own account with only seven hundred dollars, but in 1862 he became the possessor of the old homestead, his property now comprising three hundred and eighty-three acres—one hundred and twenty acres in the old home farm, one hundred acres in another tract, eighty-three acres in a third tract and eighty acres in his fourth farm. His life has been one of industry and enterprise and his untiring labor has

brought to him splendid success. His property is very valuable and the income therefrom enables him to live retired, his sons operating his land.

Mr. Swain was married on the 19th of November, 1857, to Miss Sarah Hapner, daughter of John Hapner, one of the pioneers of Preble county. They became the parents of five children, of whom four are now living, namely: George B., a resident of Eaton; Hernandez, who wedded Dora Mitchell and is living near the old homestead; Ira E., a resident of Kansas, and Martin, who is also living in Washington township. Mr. Swain is a member of the Christian church and his life is in harmony with his professions. His career has been characterized by honesty in all business dealings and by honor in every public and private relation. Throughout a residence of almost three score years and ten in the county he has become widely known, and that his life has been well spent is indicated by the fact that many of his warmest friends are those who have known him from his earliest years. His prosperity is not the result of fortunate circumstances, but has come as the logical sequence of earnest labor continued through many long years.

DAVID F. HEATON.

David F. Heaton was an active participant in the wonderful and amazing progress of the state of Ohio for a period of more than sixty years. He was a citizen of Preble county from 1816 to 1836, a period of twenty years.

He was born in Mason county, Kentucky, June 30, 1792; given a common-school education; learned the tailor's trade,

and came to Ohio and opened a tailor shop at Franklinton, about 1812. He had not long resided at that place, however, when he was offered a position on the staff of General Duncan McArthur, the commander of troops called into the service of the United States during the war of 1812, and upon the close of that war Mr. Heaton located at Lebanon, Ohio. Here he engaged in the study of law, and was admitted to the bar in 1816. Locating at Eaton, he began the practice of his profession and soon arose to prominence.

In 1817 he was appointed prosecuting attorney, and, by appointment or election, held this position for eight or ten years. In 1824 Mr. Heaton was elected a member of the state senate of Ohio, from the district comprising Preble county and all the counties on the north of it to the Michigan line. Three years later he was elected to the house of representatives, from Preble county, and in 1828 was re-elected to the senate, and was re-elected again in 1830, thus serving six years in the senate and one year in the house of representatives of the Ohio legislature. He bore a prominent part in politics, was an ardent admirer and supporter of Henry Clay and of the Whig party, and later of the Republican party.

In 1836 he removed to Washington city and thereafter, until 1845, was in the employ of the general government, holding a clerkship in the land office department. In 1845 Mr. Heaton located at Portsmouth, Ohio, and there resumed the practice of law. In Portsmouth his death occurred, in 1871.

He was twice married, for his first wife choosing Miss Celia Coggsell, who lived less than a year after her marriage; and his second wife's maiden name was Maria Shannon.

THEODORE BROWER.

Theodore Brower, a well-known stockman of Preble county, claims Indiana as the state of his nativity, his birth having occurred in Warren, Huntington county, on the 12th of October, 1851. He was one of a family of eleven children born unto Christopher and Mary (Bloomfield) Brower. The family is of German lineage. David Brower, the grandfather of our subject, emigrated from Saxony to America in early manhood, and from Virginia removed to Ohio in 1800, taking up his abode in Montgomery county, where he lived until 1811. He then came to Preble county and purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on section 29, Washington township, where he developed a farm, making for his family a good home.

Christopher Brower, the father of our subject, was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, July 31, 1808, and was reared on the old family homestead in Washington township, Preble county. He assisted his father in the distillation of spirits, the latter conducting a distillery in connection with the operation of his farm. Christopher also learned the carpenter's trade, and after his marriage removed to Eaton, where he engaged in merchandising until 1840, and then he removed to Warren, Indiana, where he resided for eighteen years, engaged in contracting and building. During that time he also served for sixteen years as a justice of the peace, and was recognized as one of the leading and influential men of the locality. About 1858 he returned to Preble county and took care of his wife's parents, living on their farm on section 30, Washington township. Three years later he purchased a farm of one hundred and fifty-eight acres

on section 36, Jackson township, where he made his home until his removal to Eaton, in 1877. There he resided until after his wife's death, when he went to live with his son, Theodore.

On the 16th of August 1831, Mr. Brower was united in marriage to Mary Bloomfield, a daughter of John and Susan (Hopkins) Bloomfield, of Washington township, Preble county. She was born there February 13, 1815, and was therefore numbered among the honored pioneer women of this section of the state. She witnessed almost the entire growth and development of the county, and with her people shared in the hardships and trials of frontier life. Her death occurred at her home in Eaton, September 11, 1898, and Mr. Brower passed away at the home of his son Theodore, July 24, 1899, when almost ninety-one years of age. In his early life he had experienced the hardships and difficulties which fall to the lot of those who seek to make a home on the frontier, and during that period he developed habits of industry, economy and honesty which proved to him of great value in later years, enabling him to acquire a handsome competence. He was a man of domestic tastes and his residence possessed a real spirit of home, being a place of rest, pleasure and shelter. Six of the children of the family are still living, namely: Syrina, the wife of Marshall Kilander, a shoe merchant of Winamac, Indiana; Judith, the wife of James R. Bennett, who is living retired in Bluffton, Indiana; Milton, a retired farmer, whose home is in Morrisville, Missouri; Melissa, the wife of Wesley Maddock, a retired farmer of Oakley, Kansas; Susan A., the wife of Joshua Williamson, a carpenter of Noblesville, Indiana; and Theodore.

The last named spent his youth in the usual manner of farmer lads of the period. He attended the common schools, aided in the labors of the field and meadow and enjoyed the sports in which boys of the time engaged. On attaining his majority he assumed the management of the home farm, and about four years after his father's removal to Eaton he purchased the homestead, which he still owns. Immediately afterward he began buying and shipping stock on a small scale, but as the years passed by he extended his labors in that direction, his business assuming considerable magnitude, constantly increasing in volume and importance. In order to secure better shipping facilities he rented his farm in 1889 and moved to his present home at New Hope Station, in order to give his entire attention to the stock business. His purchase, sales and shipments are extensive and his business is profitable. In 1893 he was made one of the employes of the Union Stock Yards at Chicago and filled that position until the summer of 1894, when he returned to his home in New Hope Station and again assumed business on his own account as a stock dealer.

On the 9th of February, 1874, Mr. Brower married Alice Eidson, a native of Olney, Illinois, and a daughter of Thomas and Rachel (Foutz) Eidson. They had two children, one of whom is living, Le Roy, now engaged in the cigar business in Eaton, Ohio. On the first day of August, 1896, Mr. Brower was again married, his second union being with Miss Anna Wise, a native of Parkersburg, West Virginia, and a daughter of August and Thresa (Luebker) Wise. They have one son, Hugo.

In his political views Mr. Brower is a Republican, active in support of the party,

and at various times has served as delegate to the county and state conventions. He is one of the well known residents of Preble county, where he has long resided. Long and actively connected with the agricultural and stock dealing interests of community, he has become widely known in business circles and his straightforward methods have ever commanded the confidence and support of the public.

JOHN ACTON.

John Acton was born in Maryland, October 23, 1781, and died in Eaton, Ohio, July 26, 1849, of cholera. In Rockbridge county, Virginia, he married Nancy Buchanan, a native of Virginia, born October 31, 1773. She died in Eaton, January 31, 1855. This worthy couple, with their three children, came to Eaton in 1816, and here Mr. Acton immediately opened a small shop and began making hats. He was a good hatter and prospered, continuing in the business many years and suspending it only a short time before his death. It has been recorded of him that he was a very hard-working man, frugal and prudent. However, he was open-hearted and liberal, and in every sense a respected and valued citizen. Though not a member of any church, he gave of his means toward the support of church, school and every public measure tending to public benefit. His wife was a member of the Presbyterian church and was a woman of sterling qualities.

In politics Mr. Acton was a Democrat, though never an aspirant for office. However, not long before his death he was honored with the appointment by the governor to the office of associate judge of the Preble county court of common pleas. To him and

his wife were born three children, namely: Mary R., who married Samuel Robinson; Isabella H., who became the wife of S. H. Hubbell; and John P. Acton, of whom personal mention is here given.

JOHN P. ACTON.

John P. Acton was the son of John and Nancy (Buchanan) Acton. He was born September 4, 1812, and was but four years of age when his parents located in Eaton. He had little schooling, because of failing eyesight, in part, and then, too, he very early developed a condition of usefulness in his father's shop. Learning the latter's trade, his father placed him very early in charge of the shop, his father turning his attention to other affairs and only retaining an interest in the business. The younger Acton did not remain in the hat business long, however, for from 1836 to 1843 he was engaged in the grocery business; and during a portion of this time he was associated with his brother-in-law, S. H. Hubbell, as a partner. Disposing of his grocery interests, Mr. Acton engaged in the business of buying and selling and manufacturing lumber, a business which occupied his attention for many years thereafter. He was a successful business man, and the independence to which he attained financially was reached by the slow, sure, laborious process of legitimate business. Many other enterprises than the lumber industry received a share of his attention and activity. In 1872 he was one of four men who established the Preble County Bank. For many years he was a very influential promoter of public improvements, doing much toward giving Preble county its railroads and turnpikes. During his long career in business, such was

his spirit of enterprise that he left his name indelibly stamped upon the pages of the county's history. He was a man of unusual ability, and his business sagacity, energy and integrity won for him an enviable reputation. His life was characterized by qualities of kindness and benevolence.

Politically Mr. Acton was a Democrat, but, save a few minor positions held in early life, he never sought or filled public office.

May 16, 1841, he married Burthenia M. Stephens, and to them six children were born, namely: John Thomas, Nancy Margaret, Harvey H., Joseph W., Mary Isabella and Elizabeth Ann. Mrs. Acton was a daughter of John and Margaret Stephens, who came to Preble county in 1817, from Bourbon county, Kentucky, and located near Eaton. They were among the early settlers of the county and were highly respected. Both were members of the Methodist Episcopal church. He was a native of Kentucky, while his wife was a native of Maryland.

JOHN RISINGER.

John Risinger, one of the best-known and most successful lawyers of Preble county, was born and reared in this county. February 9, 1856, he was born on a farm near Eaton. His parents, Allen and Caroline (Hart) Risinger, were also born in Preble county. His father, a farmer, died in 1863, when our subject was but seven years of age. His widowed mother remained on the farm and her son was brought up to farm work. He had no brothers and but one sister, who is now Mrs. Anna Lander.

In the public schools young Risinger received his first scholastic training. He then entered Buchtel College, Akron, Ohio, and at this institution graduated in 1877.

He began the study of law in Eaton, in a law office, and was admitted to the bar in 1878. Going to Kokomo, Indiana, he began there his professional career. Two years later, on account of failing health, he left Kokomo and returned to Preble county, where for four years thereafter he was engaged in farming. In 1884 Mr. Risinger resumed the practice of the law in Eaton, and has steadily advanced to the fore in his profession. In 1887 he was elected prosecuting attorney for the county, and re-elected in 1890, and held the office two terms, making for himself a splendid record as a prosecutor. He has always been active in politics, the men and measures of the Republican party receiving his unqualified support.

He has served as the chairman of the county Republican central committee, and has done effectual campaign work both as a speaker and organizer. In 1888 he was a delegate to the national Republican convention, held at Chicago. Fraternally he is a member of the Knights of Pythias.

In 1878 Mr. Risinger married Miss Mattie S. Brouse, of Preble county. Their only child, a daughter, is now Mrs. Mabel Schneider, and with her husband, Philip Schneider, Jr., resides in Richmond, Indiana.

JOHN P. BANKERD.

The record of Mr. Bankerd is that of a man who by his own unaided efforts has worked his way upward to a position among the substantial men of the community in which he lives. His life has been one of industry and perseverance, and the systematic and honorable methods he has followed have won him the support and confidence of many. He is now successfully engaged in

general mercantile business in Euphemia, and is also serving as postmaster of that town.

Mr. Bankerd was born January 30, 1849, in Carroll county, Maryland, of which his father, Abraham Bankerd, was also a native. It was in 1856 that the latter brought his family to Preble county, Ohio, and located at West Sonora, Harrison township, where he conducted a hotel for many years and also engaged in farming. He was a member of the United Brethren church, and died in that faith near Georgetown, Miami county, at the age of seventy-five years. He was three times married, his second wife being Susan Masonhamer, also a native of Maryland, by whom he had five children, but of these our subject is the only one now living, the others having died when young. The mother died at the age of seventy-two. Her father, Peter Masonhamer, is supposed to have been a native of Maryland and the son of a German emigrant, who came to this country when a young man and spent the remainder of his life as a farmer in Maryland. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. Our subject's paternal grandfather was a lifelong resident of Carroll county, Maryland, and a farmer by occupation, while his father, also a native of Germany, was an early settler of Maryland and a soldier of the Revolutionary war, the ancestors of our subject being well represented in the early wars of this country.

John P. Bankerd was only seven years of age on the removal of the family to Preble county, Ohio, where he was educated in the district schools. On the 2d of May, 1864, although only fifteen years of age, he enlisted in the one-hundred-day service in Company C, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio National Guard, and re-enlisted in Sep-

tember, 1864, as a private of Company K. One Hundred and Seventy-ninth Ohio Volunteer Infantry. He served until the war ended, being honorably discharged in July, 1865. He was dispatch-carrier for General John F. Miller, who became United States senator from California, and died in Washington, D. C.

After his return home Mr. Bankerd engaged in farming in Harrison township for a time and later turned his attention to the manufacture of tile at West Sonora for two years, after which he was interested in the tinware and peddling business for three years. He next opened a grocery store in West Sonora which he conducted twelve years, and in 1891 came to Euphemia, where he has since successfully engaged in general merchandising. Besides his village property he owns a good farm of eighty acres on section 15, Harrison township, well improved and highly cultivated.

On the 6th of November, 1870, Mr. Bankerd married Miss Matilda Blackford, who is the fourth in order of birth in a family of six children, four sons and two daughters, five of whom are still living, their parents being David and Sarah Ann (Bottles) Blackford. Mrs. Bankerd was born in Montgomery county, but reared in Miami county, Ohio. Our subject and his wife have four children: Anna is the wife of George F. McAlley, an attorney of Baker City, Oregon, and they have one child, John Henry. Howard R. is president of the Cookman Institute, at Jacksonville, Florida. Both he and Mrs. McAlley are graduates of the Ohio Normal University, of Ada, Ohio. Mary is deceased. John A. Logan, the youngest, is attending school in Euphemia.

As a Republican Mr. Bankerd takes an active interest in political affairs, and has

been a delegate to state and county conventions of his party. Socially he is an honored member of Post No. 622, G. A. R., of which he was commander two years, and also belongs to Libanus Lodge, No. 80, F. & A. M., of Lewisburg. He is efficiently serving as postmaster of Euphemia, and has always faithfully discharged every trust reposed in him, whether public or private, thus winning the commendation of all concerned.

LEVI G. GOULD.

Levi G. Gould, the editor of the *Eaton Democrat*, was born in Carlisle, Pennsylvania, December 17, 1831. He was a son of Henry and Elizabeth (Rice) Gould, both natives of the Keystone state. He was one of thirteen children, and, his parents being poor, our subject was obliged to support himself from a very early date in life. His educational advantages were only such as he could make for himself under the circumstances, and were poor enough. When a boy thirteen years of age he began to learn the printer's trade. The printing office afforded him opportunity for gaining a practical education, and, applying himself closely, he both learned the printer's trade and obtained such fundamental information of a general character as well fitted him for what has been his life pursuit in the main, that of newspaper publishing.

In April, 1850, Mr. Gould, then aged eighteen, came to Eaton and was employed for about two years in the office of the *Eaton Democrat*, then under control of his brother, W. C. Gould. He afterward purchased the *Lebanon (Ohio) Citizen*, and in 1855 traded offices with his brother, thus becoming proprietor of the *Eaton Democrat*, which he at present owns and publishes. In 1858 Mr.

Gould retired from the Democrat, and for twelve years was engaged unsuccessfully in mercantile business and in speculating. In 1870 he again became identified with the Democrat, which has since then had the benefit of his constant attention and with good results. In the newspaper business Mr. Gould has been successful, being well and favorably known throughout all of Preble county.

The subject of this review was married January 15, 1855, to Emily, a daughter of Cornelius Van Ausdal, Eaton's pioneer merchant. Two daughters were the result of this marriage—Edith L. and Mary V. Gould. The latter is the wife of C. F. Brooke, Jr., of Eaton.

JOHN WRIGHT.

The fitting reward of a well-spent life is an honorable retirement from labor, and after many years' connection with the agricultural interests of Preble county Mr. Wright is now enjoying a well earned rest at his pleasant home in College Corner. He was born in Somers township, Preble county, April 24, 1824. His father was born in the north of Ireland, in 1788, and when only three years of age was brought to America by his parents, John and Jeanette (Orr) Wright. The father was born on the Emerald Isle, in 1764, and was a farmer in limited circumstances. He had two sons, John and James, who at his death were left to the care of the widow. In 1807 the little family removed from South Carolina to Ohio, locating in Butler county, near the boundary line of Preble county. Two years later they purchased and located upon an adjoining farm in this county. The father of our subject was thus reared to ag-

ricultural pursuits and after attaining man's estate he wedded Margaret Cook, who was born in Pennsylvania, about 1801, and died in 1878, in her seventy-seventh year. Their marriage, which occurred in 1821, was blessed with five children: John, whose name introduces this review; James R., who died at the age of six months; James C., who died at the age of thirty-two years, leaving a widow and one son, who was left an orphan two years later, and is now a business man in College Corner; William, who is living on the old homestead farm in Somers township; and Eliza Jane, the wife of James Jeffers, of Butler county, Ohio. The father of these children was called to his final rest in 1854.

John Wright is indebted to the common-school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He assisted in the operation of the home farm through the years of his minority, and he gained a practical experience which enabled him to successfully carry on business for himself in later years. In October, 1847, he married Miss Isabella H. Ramsey, who died twenty months later, and on the 9th of October, 1850, he wedded Martha J. Johnston, of Israel township, a daughter of William and Eliza Johnston. They began their domestic life upon a farm of eighty acres, to which Mr. Wright added from time to time until he owned there two hundred and fifty-six acres. He still has in his possession two hundred and six acres of that farm, the rental therefrom bringing to him a good income. He successfully managed his property, his industry and untiring perseverance being indicated by the way in which he added to the eighty-acre tract of timber land that he had inherited from his father. His fields were well tilled and all of the improvements and accessories

of a model farm were there found. He raised good stock and kept everything upon his place in a neat and orderly condition. There he remained until 1896, when, having acquired a handsome competence, he took up his abode in College Corner, having erected there a pleasant residence on the Indiana side of the town.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Wright were born eight children, namely: Gilbert O., a farmer of Israel township who is married and has four living children; John C., who died at the age of nine months; a son who died in infancy; Margaret E., who is at home and relieves her parents of much of the care of the household; William T., who died at the age of seventeen years; Elmer J., who died at the age of sixteen months; Oliver McLeod, who is operating the home farm, where he is living with his wife and five children, three sons and two daughters; and Enros Cooper, who also lives on a portion of the home farm with his wife and one son. Mr. John Wright and his wife celebrated the fiftieth anniversary of their wedding on October 9, 1900.

Mr. Wright has given all of his sons farms, thus enabling them to gain a start in life. He has also provided his children with excellent educational privileges, realizing the value of advanced education as a preparation for life's practical and responsible duties. His early privileges in that direction were such as were afforded in a log school building, with its bench seats, crude writing desks and oiled-paper windows, and the methods of instruction were little better than the furnishing. Mr. Wright, however, was endowed by nature with strong mentality, and his broad experience in the practical affairs of life made him a well informed man. He is a Republican in his political

views, and for several terms served as township trustee of Israel township. He and his family are members of the United Presbyterian church, and both Mr. and Mrs. Wright are people of sterling worth who deserve the rest which is now vouchsafed them in their pleasant home at College Corner.

JAMES ALEXANDER GILMORE.

An able advocate before a jury, logical in presenting his cases before the court, and distinguished as a speaker, Hon. James Alexander Gilmore, of Eaton, has long since held high rank in the legal profession of Ohio.

Mr. Gilmore was born and reared in Preble county. His birth occurred in Israel township, July 11, 1834. His father, Dr. Eli Gilmore, was a native of Virginia, who removed from that state to Preble county in 1825. The Gilmore family is of Scotch-Irish lineage. The mother of our subject was Clarissa Mosby Clayton, a sister of Alexander M. Clayton, who for many years was the presiding judge of the high court of errors and appeals of the state of Mississippi.

After obtaining a rudimentary education in the public schools, he began the study of law, at the age of eighteen, in the law office of his brother, William J. Gilmore. During the time he studied law at Eaton he did considerable clerical work in the various county offices. In 1854 Mr. Gilmore entered the Cincinnati law school, where he graduated in 1855, and was admitted to the bar by the district court of Butler county on the day after he had attained the age of twenty-one. He commenced the practice of law at Eaton, in association with his brother, but in 1858 went to Greencastle, Indiana, and opened a

law office. Two years later he returned to Eaton, where he remained a single year, returning to Greencastle in 1860.

In the fall of 1861 Mr. Gilmore enlisted in the Forty-third Regiment, Indiana Volunteer Infantry, for service in the war to suppress the rebellion. Soon after his regiment was mustered into service, he was detailed in the quartermaster's department, where he served during the term of his enlistment, three years. His regiment was one of the first to enter Memphis. Afterward the command went to Helena, Arkansas, thence to Little Rock, Camden, etc., remaining, however, most of the time at Little Rock. Upon the expiration of the term of his enlistment he was honorably discharged in the fall of 1864, and soon thereafter he re-enlisted in the Ninety-first Indiana Regiment of Volunteer Infantry, one of the regiments forming the Twenty-third Army Corps, and with this command he went to North Carolina. He was again detailed from his regiment and served his time principally in the judge-advocate's department. A part of the time, however, he was a clerk under Captain Phineas R. Minor in the commissary department.

After his discharge in 1865, at the close of the war, Mr. Gilmore spent a year in the west, and then returned to his old home in Eaton, and here formed a partnership with Judge J. V. Campbell, again taking up the practice of law. About 1870 he went to Hamilton and practiced for two years, and then again returned to Eaton, where he has since resided. In the spring of 1879 he was elected an additional judge of the court of common pleas, an office he held for one term. He has gained an enviable reputation in the legal profession. He has a strong analytical mind, is a strong argumentative speaker and

of marked ability to state a legal proposition in terse terms. His the author of Gilmore's Probate Practice, a standard work used extensively in Ohio, which was first issued in 1884, and again in 1890 in a second edition.

Judge Gilmore has long been prominent in political circles. He is a staunch Democrat and has done much active work for the party. He has been frequently a member of the county central committee and has attended many political conventions and done much efficient speaking in political campaigns. Fraternally he is a Master Mason and a Knight of Pythias.

While practicing law at Greencastle, in 1859, Mr. Gilmore was first married, choosing Miss Lizzie Applegate, who died while he was serving in the army during the civil war, leaving one son, Clayton A. Gilmore. In 1869 he married for his second wife Miss Ada M. Hendricks, a daughter of General George D. Hendricks. Unto this marriage were born the following children: Anna, now Mrs. William Ford; Lida, now Mrs. Don Dickson; Grace, Allen, James, Joseph and Hugh R.

JAMES E. PAXTON.

James E. Paxton is engaged in blacksmithing in College Corner and is an enterprising young business man whose industry is bringing to him creditable success. He was born thirty-two years ago on the old Paxton farm, the date of his birth being May 22, 1868. His father, Alexander Paxton, was born in Israel township, Preble county, in April, 1826, and Jonathan Paxton, the grandfather of our subject, was the founder of the family in this locality. He was born in York, Pennsylvania, in 1777, and in 1793 emigrated to Virginia, whence

he came to Ohio, taking up his abode in Columbus. About 1800 he came to Preble county. He was married in 1795, when eighteen years of age, to Nancy Gilmore, of Rockbridge county, Virginia, and they had seventeen children, namely: Robert, William, Patsy, James, Thomas, Eli, Madison, Jonathan, Rachel, Sarah, Sabina, Sina, Mary, Eliza, Alexander, Nancy and Samuel. Of these Robert G. and William G. were born in Virginia, and the latter died in Mercer county, Illinois. There were sixty-three grandchildren and in the winter of 1852 there were five deaths in the family from typhoid fever, the parents and three of their daughters passing away.

Alexander Paxton, the father of our subject, was reared to manhood upon the old family homestead in Preble county and was married in 1844 to Rosanna Wilson, of Israel township, a daughter of Daniel and Catherine (Roche) Wilson, both natives of South Carolina, whence they came to Preble county about 1821. They had nine children, one of whom died in early life in South Carolina. The other eight were born in Ohio. James became a soldier in the civil war and was killed while on picket duty at Dallas, Georgia, where his remains were interred. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Paxton, was David Wilson, who was born in Pennsylvania and died at the age of ninety years in Florida, to which state he removed from South Carolina. He was married at the age of nineteen to Mary Sturgess, who was of Scotch lineage, and they had three sons and a daughter.

Alexander Paxton and his wife were married in 1848 and located upon the old Paxton farm, comprising two hundred and fifty-two acres. In 1856 Alexander and his brother Jonathan became joint owners of the

property, for which they paid ten thousand dollars. In 1858, however, the former purchased the old homestead upon which his widow now resides, becoming owner of one hundred and twenty acres of rich land, which he transformed into a valuable farm. Upon these two farms the eight children of the family were all born: Mary Narcissa is the wife of John C. Herron, of Kansas City, and they have five children; David B., a merchant of Blackton, Iowa, married Martha Smith; John Wilson, a resident of Fayetteville, Indiana, wedded Melissa Brown and has four children; Nancy Catherine is the wife of Dr. George T. Gregg, of Sullivan, Ohio; Sarah Parmelia died in infancy; Sina McCandless is the wife of John W. Graham, a farmer of Israel township, and has five children; Cora resides with her mother upon the old home farm; and James Emery is the youngest of the family and the subject of this review.

The last named was married October 11, 1833, to Miss Eva C. McQuiston, a daughter of William and Mary (Bonner) McQuiston. Their union has been blessed with two children, Glenn P. and Martha.

IRA FUDGE.

Deeply engraved on the pages of pioneer history of Preble county is the name of Fudge, for the family of which our subject is a representative has long resided in this section of the state and has borne an important part in the substantial development and material improvement of the county.

Ira Fudge was born January 31, 1851, in Lanier township, on a farm adjoining his present home. Many years before that his grandfather, Jacob Fudge, had taken up his abode in this county. He was a native of



Ira Fudge

Rockingham county, Virginia, and was born December 26, 1779. His father died when he, Jacob, was only three years of age, leaving a widow with two little sons—Jacob and David. She, however, again married and the family removed to Kentucky, where they resided until Jacob was fourteen years of age. In the year 1793 they emigrated to the wilds of Warren county, Ohio, locating where Lebanon, the county seat, is now situated. In 1799 they settled on Clear creek, near Springboro, in the same county, and a few years later Jacob and his brother, having attained the adult age, started out in life for themselves. They made their way through the forests to what is now Lanier township, Preble county, and purchased five hundred acres of land on Twin creek, on sections 34 and 35. This tract is now owned and occupied by Jacob Ulrich and Ira Fudge, of this review, and is as rich and fertile a portion as can be found in any part of the state. When the purchase was made, Jacob Fudge went to Cincinnati to make payment and receive the patent for the land, transacting his business in the upper story of a log building. The city at that time was a small village on the very outskirts of civilization. Mr. Fudge then refused an offer of real estate that would have proven a most valuable investment in the course of time, but he preferred his broad acres in the woods on Twin creek to property in the little village. Later he exchanged land with his brother until he became the owner of the entire five-hundred-acre tract. A large part of this land was overflowed nearly every year and he built a large and expensive levee which protects much of it. He was one of the organizers of Preble county and its first sheriff. He did not, however, seek or desire office—in fact, much preferred to give his attention to

other interests. He possessed a retiring disposition, but was industrious and systematic, paying close attention to his own business, and this application, guided by sound judgment, formed the secret of his success. His school privileges were meager, but he was a man of strong intellectuality and good judgment and was most successful in the conduct of his business affairs. In his religious belief he was in accord with the Universalist faith.

Mr. Fudge was married November 14, 1810, to Elizabeth, a daughter of Gasper Potterf, who was a pioneer of Gasper township, which was named in his honor. Mrs. Fudge was born February 10, 1790, in Rockingham county, Virginia, and after their marriage was installed mistress of the little log cabin home, which stood upon a hill, until about 1810. In 1819, however, her husband erected a brick residence, which was torn down by her son Jacob about 1879, the brick being used in the construction of the new residence at the foot of the hill. The grandfather of our subject died March 27, 1863, at the advanced age of eighty-three years, but his widow survived him until the 3d of February, 1869, when she, too, was called to the home beyond. Their thirteen children all reached mature years and were married with one exception, and there were about seventy grandchildren.

Franklin N. Fudge, one of the children, was the father of our subject. Having arrived at years of maturity, he married Miss Susanna Markey, the wedding taking place on the 30th of September, 1849. She was born in Frederick county, Maryland, August 5, 1830, and when seven years of age was brought to Preble county. Franklin Fudge, however, was a native of this county, his birth having occurred in Lanier township,

December 15, 1826. To him and his wife were born the following children: Ira, whose name introduces this review; Ada, born May 9, 1852, and is the wife of J. W. Kinsey, a farmer of Lanier township; Eliza Ann, who was born June 27, 1854, and became the wife of V. J. Drayer, whom she left with three children at her death on the 3d of June, 1893; Nancy, who is the wife of H. C. Butterbaugh, of Clay township, Montgomery county, by whom he had six children, four yet living; Samuel, a farmer of West Alexandria, who has had five children, four of whom survive; Laura Elizabeth, who married Daniel Ulrich, of Lanier township, by whom she has eight children; Amos, who is living on the home farm; and Susanna, the wife of Lorin Brubaker, of Lanier township, by whom she has two children. The father of these children died February 6, 1896, but the mother is still living and is yet active in body and mind.

Ira Fudge received fair educational privileges in the public schools and was reared to the work of the home farm, assisting his father in the cultivation of the fields until twenty-four years of age. He has always made farming his life work and is to-day the owner of a very valuable property, consisting of two hundred and twenty-eight acres of choice farming land and forty acres of timber land. In 1885 he erected a beautiful and commodious brick residence, and the other improvements upon the place are in keeping with his home. He built an extensive barn, sixty-four by forty-nine feet, with eighteen-foot posts, and thus secured ample shelter for grain and stock. His residence is octagonal and is surrounded by a beautiful lawn and shade trees. There are two fine fruit orchards and fertile fields under

a high state of cultivation. He spares no effort or expense to make his home as good as any in this fertile section and has indeed an attractive and valuable property. He raises corn and wheat and also makes a specialty of the cultivation of tobacco, raising annually fifteen acres of that crop. He breeds polled Durham cattle and thoroughbred horses and sells considerable stock. He also raises and sells about forty Poland China hogs annually and much of his stock could be registered.

On the 31st of March, 1875, Mr. Fudge was married to Miss Ella K. Clark, of Montgomery county, Ohio, who was born October 26, 1853, a daughter of Jesse F. and Nancy (Halderman) Clark. The father died in November, 1857, leaving a wife and one son and one daughter. The mother is still living, at the age of sixty-eight years, and has ever remained true to the memory of her husband, making her home with our subject. To Mr. and Mrs. Fudge have been born four children: Edna S., who is the wife of M. M. Brubaker, of Winchester; Ada N., who is a student in the Winchester high school and is pursuing a musical education; one daughter who died in infancy; and Jesse L., a comely boy of thirteen years who is a diligent student in the public schools.

Mr. Fudge is a Democrat and has been a township trustee for three years. He has also been a member of the school board for twelve years and the cause of education has found in him a warm friend. He gives his support to every measure which he believes would prove of public benefit and his worth as a man and citizen is widely acknowledged. He belongs to one of the honored pioneer families of the county and is a representative farmer who in the active walks of business

life has ever been honorable and upright, commanding the respect of those with whom he has been brought in contact.

AMOS FUDGE.

Amos Fudge is one of the young representatives of the agricultural interests of Preble county. He was born June 22, 1868, on the farm where he yet resides in Lanier township and is a representative of one of the early families of the county. When this section of the state was just being opened up to civilization Jacob and David Fudge came to the county and took an active part in laying the foundation for its present prosperity and progress. Jacob Fudge, the grandfather of our subject, was the father of thirteen children.

Franklin N. Fudge, the father of our subject, was born December 15, 1826, on the farm adjoining that upon which his son Amos now makes his home. He was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life, was trained to habits of industry and economy and became a representative agriculturist of his community. He married Susanna Markey, whose parents were Amos and Jane (Eby) Markey. Mr. and Mrs. Fudge took up their abode upon a farm adjoining the old homestead and in 1854 he began clearing the land upon which Amos Fudge now resides, locating thereon in the spring of 1855.

For a more detailed account of the parental history of subject the reader is referred to the sketch of his brother, Ira Fudge.

Amos Fudge obtained his education in Winchester and has always lived upon the farm which is now his home. Under the direction of his father, who was an energetic and successful farmer, he became a practical

and enterprising agriculturist. The father built two large barns, one forty-four by seventy-six feet and the other forty-eight by fifty-two feet, and Mr. Fudge, of this review, has added other buildings to the place, including large tobacco sheds. In connection with his brother he is extensively and successfully engaged in the cultivation of tobacco. His farm comprises two hundred and ninety-six acres, for he has added eighty-two acres to the old home property. He raises also considerable stock, including some pure-blooded Durhams and Southdown sheep. His farm is one of the finest in the entire community and a glance at the place indicates the owner to be a man of marked enterprise and thrift. Not only is he regarded as one of the most capable representatives of agricultural interests but is also a well-known and reliable business man whose efforts have been extended to other interests. He is a charter member of the Winchester Telephone Association and one of its directors.

On the 30th of March, 1892, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Fudge and Miss Mary Meyer, of Lanier township, a daughter of J. H. and Ellen Meyer. Mr. and Mrs. Fudge have lost an infant daughter. They have three living daughters: Susie Catherine, Grace Anna and Doratha. The family is one of prominence in the community, the parents having the warm regard of many friends. Mr. Fudge is a Democrat in his political faith, yet is not strictly partisan. He has never sought office or desired political preferment, giving his time and attention largely to his business affairs, in which he has met with gratifying success. As a leading and influential citizen and a man of sterling worth, he well deserves representation in this volume.

MARGARET SMITH.

As a representative of one of the honored pioneer families of the Buckeye state, and as being herself worthy of all distinction through her identification with the early history of Preble county, and with the annals of later development and marked prosperity, it is certainly incumbent that in this work there be accorded a review of the life of the venerable lady whose name appears above.

On the old homestead where she resided up to the time of her death, Miss Smith was born, on the 16th of February, 1828, being the daughter of Jacob and Martha (Evans) Smith, to whom six children were born, the subject of this sketch outliving all the others of the family. The father was a native of either Pennsylvania or Virginia and was born on the 23d of March, 1777, being the son of Samuel and Rachel Smith.

Jacob Smith grew up under the sturdy and invigorating discipline of the farm, and in the course of time assumed individual responsibilities and began the practical work of life. He was twice married, his first union having been with Miss Sarah Spencer, daughter of Nathan and Hannah Spencer, and the young couple began their wedded life in Loudoun county, Virginia, where they carried on farming operations. Of this marriage there were born seven children, all of whom are now deceased. Mrs. Smith was summoned into eternal rest on the 25th of May, 1815, and subsequently Mr. Smith wedded Miss Martha Evans, the mother of the lady whose name introduces this article. They shortly afterward removed to Belmont county, Ohio, later taking up their abode in Wayne county, Indiana, whence they eventually came to Preble county and settled on the farm which is now

occupied by their daughter, in Jackson township. Here the father of our subject effected the purchase of two hundred acres of land, which he reclaimed and placed under effective cultivation, holding precedence as one of the influential men of the county and as one whose integrity in all the relations of life was beyond peradventure. From that early pioneer epoch until the present day, representative of advanced methods and electrical progress, the old homestead has remained in the Smith family, and it is but consistent that she who owned and occupied it until the present year should be held in the highest esteem and affection in the community where her entire life was passed, a life filled with usefulness and kindly deeds.

Jacob Smith resided on the old homestead until death released him from his labors, venerable in years and in the fullness of honors won as a man worthy of the confidence and high regard of his fellow men. In his political adherency Mr. Smith was an ardent supporter of the Republican party and its principles, being zealous in the advocacy of the abolition of the institution of human slavery in our fair land, but he did not live to see this object accomplished or to witness the glorious victory of the Union arms, perpetuating the integrity of the nation. His death occurred on the last day of January, 1859, in the eighty-second year of his age.

Martha (Evans) Smith, the mother of the immediate subject of this review, was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, on the 3d of February, 1784, the daughter of Richard and Phoebe Evans. Her father was a miller by trade and occupation, owning and operating a grist and saw mill in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, for many years, and there passing the closing years of his busy

and useful life. The mother of our subject lived to attain the venerable age of eighty-six years, her death occurring on the 3d of August, 1870.

Margaret Smith, to whom this review is dedicated, was reared on the old homestead in Jackson township, acquiring her education in the common schools. After the death of the father the family was comprised of the widowed mother and our subject and her two brothers, Seth and Elisha, all of whom remained on the homestead. Seth passed away on the 25th of September, 1877, and on the 25th of October, 1881, Elisha also died, leaving a widow, Mary Ann, who is now the wife of William Ray.

Thus left as the only survivor of the family, Miss Smith continued until her demise to abide on the old farm, so endeared and hallowed by the associations of the past, and in the community her friends are in number as her acquaintances. She conducted the business of the farm with signal ability and discrimination. Miss Smith was a devoted member of the Hicksite church, in whose work and collateral charities she maintained a lively interest. She was deserving of all honor as a worthy representative of the pioneer stock which played so important a part in the development of this favored section of the Buckeye state. She passed away May 20, 1900.

JAMES McDILL.

James McDill is the owner of a valuable tract of bottom land along Four Mile creek, the farm being situated on section 33, Israel township. His entire life has been passed in Preble county and he is therefore widely known to its settlers. In consequence he needs no introduction to the read-

ers of this volume, for his career has been an honorable and upright one and has gained him the confidence and good will of a large circle of friends. His birth occurred on the 29th of December, 1819, on section 28, Israel township, one mile east of his present home. His father, Hugh McDill, was born in Appleby district, South Carolina, and the grandfather, David McDill, was a native of the Emerald Isle, whence he was brought to America by his parents when about nine years of age. His father was Thomas McDill, a man of considerable means, who took up his abode in South Carolina and there spent his remaining days. He died December 4, 1791, at the age of sixty-nine years, and was laid to rest in a cemetery of that state. His wife died in the same state, in 1827, in her eighty-seventh year. Their son, David McDill, was reared to manhood in South Carolina and there married Isabel McQuiston. They became the parents of six children: Thomas; David; Peggy, the wife of James Faris; John, Hugh and Archibald. The father of these children was one of the heroes of the Revolution who fought the Tories in South Carolina. The family was originally of Scotch origin, but on account of the encroachment of the Catholics in Ireland emigrated to South Carolina. On account of slavery they left that state and removed to the north. The grandfather owned several quarter-sections of land in Ohio, and the different members of the family had usually been well-to-do and substantial citizens.

Hugh McDill, the father of our subject, was born in South Carolina, December 9, 1794 and in 1806, when twelve years of age, came to the Buckeye state with a colony of McDills, McQuistons and Elliotts. These people organized an Associate Reformed

church and the first meeting was held in David McDill's barn; but a hewed-log church was soon erected. Hugh McDill was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life and married Drusilla Brown, the wedding taking place in March, 1819. They had eight children—four sons and four daughters—but three of the daughters died in early childhood. Caroline, the remaining daughter, became the wife of Jacob Cooper and died soon afterward, leaving one daughter. William, one of the sons of the family, died at the age of four years. The surviving children are: James; David, who is one of the professors in the Theological Seminary at Xenia, Ohio; and John, a physician at Camp Grove, Illinois. The father of these children died in 1873, and his widow in 1879.

James McDill, their eldest child, obtained a liberal education and afterward engaged in teaching in the common schools, following that profession through the winter months. He was married October 3, 1844, to Miss Agnes T. Paxton, who was born in Israel township, in 1825, a daughter of Robert and Mary (McDill) Paxton. They were distant cousins. Mr. Paxton was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, in 1799, and his wife was born in 1800. In 1818 they emigrated from the Old Dominion to Preble county, Ohio, locating on section 18, Israel township. The father served as justice of the peace from 1840 to 1846, inclusive, and was a prominent and influential citizen at an early day, exercising a strong influence on public affairs. Since their marriage Mr. and Mrs. McDill have resided upon the farm which is now their home, with the exception of two years spent in College Corner. Here Mr. McDill owns one hundred and ninety-two acres of land, constituting a very valuable property. He raises corn and wheat,

and has a large drove of hogs, but for some time past he has made the raising of cattle more a specialty. All that he has he has acquired through his own efforts, as the result of his untiring industry and perseverance. Each year he has added somewhat to his capital, save the year when the cholera carried off so many of his hogs. During the war he sold one thousand bushels of corn for a dollar per bushel. At one time he determined to leave the farm and erected a good residence in College Corner, but after two years his wife decided that she preferred the old homestead, where so many happy years had been passed and which had become endeared to them through many associations.

It was upon this farm that they reared their children. William, their eldest child, died in 1848, at the age of two years. John, born January 28, 1847, died September 24, 1893. Hugh, born May 3, 1849, is now at home, but was formerly in Colorado, where he occupied the position of state superintendent of the fisheries. He is a graduate of Monmouth College, of Monmouth, Illinois. Samuel Newton, born November 5, 1851, went from Clifton, Illinois, to Columbus, Nebraska, and there died on the 3d of January, 1890. Mary Jane is the wife of Clinton Douglas, of Chicago, and has two daughters and two sons and also lost two children.

Mr. McDill was in early life a Whig, casting his first presidential vote for the candidate of that party in 1844. On the organization of the Republican party he joined its ranks and has since been one of its stalwart advocates. He has served as county commissioner for three years, but has never been an office-seeker, preferring that his time and attention shall be given to his business

affairs, in which he has met with creditable and gratifying success. Untiring labor has been the secret of his prosperity and his life should serve as a source of inspiration and encouragement to those who are forced to start upon their business career without capital or the aid of influential friends.

HON. WILLIAM J. GILMORE.

Hon. William James Gilmore was born in Liberty, Bedford county, Virginia, April 2, 1821. The family of which he was a representative is of Scotch-Irish lineage, and in early colonial days was established in Virginia. His parents were Dr. Eli Gilmore and Clarissa Mosby (Clayton) Gilmore, natives of Virginia. His father was an able physician, and with his family settled in Israel township, Preble county, in 1825, at which time the subject of this review was but four years of age. After obtaining such rudimentary education as was at that early day afforded by the pioneer teachers in the log-cabin schoolhouse, he attended Westfield and Hopewell Academies. Determining to make the practice of law his life work, Mr. Gilmore began the study of law in the office of Thomas Milikin, a lawyer of Hamilton, Ohio. Later he was a student in the law office of Hawkins Brothers, of Eaton, and in 1847 was admitted to the bar. After his admission he formed a partnership with Colonel Thomas Moore, and commenced the practice of his profession in Hamilton. A year later, this partnership being dissolved, he removed to Eaton and opened an office, and in 1849 formed a partnership with J. S. Hawkins, which continued until that gentleman's death in 1852. In that year he was elected prosecuting attorney for Preble county, and was re-elected

to the same office in 1854. In the year 1857 Mr. Gilmore was appointed to fill an unexpired term as judge of the court of common pleas, and having served out the term resumed the practice of his profession, in partnership with Judge J. V. Campbell, with whom he remained associated until 1866, when Judge Gilmore was elected to the common pleas bench, to which he was re-elected in 1871. In 1874 he was elected a judge of the supreme court of Ohio, serving for a term of six years. On the expiration of that period he established himself in Columbus, where he resided until his death, which occurred August 9, 1896.

He was one of the strongest legal minds ever upon the supreme bench of the state, and his written opinions are still quoted among the best that have ever been produced. A man of unimpeachable character, of unusual intellectual endowment, with a thorough understanding of the law, patience, urbanity and industry, Judge Gilmore took to the bench the very highest qualifications for these most responsible offices of the state government, and his record as a judge was in harmony with his record as a man and lawyer, distinguished by unswerving integrity and a masterful grasp of every problem that was presented for solution. He was much interested in the Historical Society, and for a number of years, under different governors, served as a trustee of the Ohio Historical and Archæological Society. From 1871 until the time of his death he was a trustee of Miami University, and the cause of education found in him a warm friend whose strong influence made his labors very effective in its behalf. He was one of the organizers of the Ohio State Bar Association, and served as its president in 1886-7. He was remarkable among lawyers for his wide

research and provident care with which he prepared his cases, and his marked ability in the line of his profession won him high honors, which were well merited. Of the Scotch-Irish Society of America he was a valued member, and was also an exemplary representative of the Masonic fraternity, in which he attained the Knight Templar degree. In manner he was very genial and kindly, and always approachable. These qualities, together with his broad knowledge, made him a very companionable gentleman and one whose circle of friends was limited only by the circle of his extensive acquaintance. In politics he was a stanch Democrat, and the fact that he was elected to office in a strongly Republican county speaks much for his popularity among his fellow citizens.

He was, moreover, a man of domestic tastes, finding his greatest enjoyment in the pleasures of his own fireside. He was a man of well rounded character, finely balanced mind and of splendid intellectual attainments, and, though he won honors in public life, he possessed those sterling traits of character which inspired strong personal friendships.

On the 7th of September, 1848, William James Gilmore and Miss Sarah Ann Rossman were united in marriage. Their union was blessed by the birth of two sons, namely: Jackson H. and Clement R. Gilmore. Mrs. Gilmore's death occurred in 1885, the Judge surviving her eleven years.

JACKSON H. GILMORE.

Jackson H. Gilmore, the eldest son of Judge William J. Gilmore, was born in Eaton, Ohio, March 4, 1850, and was educated at Miami University, studied law in

the University of Virginia, and graduated at the Cincinnati Law School. Upon the certificate of the latter institution he was admitted to the bar in the district court of Cincinnati in 1875, and commercial practice in that city, but owing to failing health he was soon compelled to give up the practice and go to Colorado, where he spent about two years, and then returned to his home in Eaton, very much improved in health. Later he was associated in the practice of law with his father in Columbus. His death occurred October 24, 1880.

CLEMENT R. GILMORE.

Clement R. Gilmore, the only survivor of Judge William J. Gilmore's family, was born in the city of Eaton, September 12, 1858. His elementary education having been acquired in the public schools, he afterward pursued his literary course in the Wooster University, of Ohio. He entered upon his business career in the employment of the Panhandle Railroad Company, and later was in the state insurance department at Columbus. After his mother's death he became a student in his father's law office, was admitted to the bar in 1888, and then continued in practice with Judge Gilmore in Columbus until the father's death. Our subject remained a member of the bar of the capital city until 1898, when, on account of his wife's failing health, he went to California. In the fall of the same year, however, he returned to Ohio and entered into partnership relations with his uncle, Judge James A. Gilmore, at Eaton.

On the 29th of October, 1889, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Gilmore and Miss Ellen Gardner, a daughter of Mayor G. W. Gardner, of Cleveland, Ohio. Three chil-

dren have been born to them: Jackson Gardner, William Stevens and Rosanne. Mr. Gilmore is a member of the Congregational church at Columbus, and belongs to one of the college societies. His many social qualities have made him popular both in professional and private circles, and at the bar he has obtained an enviable position. He has won for himself very favorable criticism for the careful and systematic methods which he has followed. He has a remarkable power of concentration and application, and his retentive mind has often excited the surprise of his professional colleagues. As an orator he stands high, especially in the discussion of legal matters before the court, where his comprehensive knowledge of the law is manifest, and his application of legal principles demonstrates the wide range of his professional acquirements. The utmost care and precision characterize his preparation of a case and have made him one of the most successful attorneys in Preble county.

ALFRED A. LOVETT, M. D.

Alfred Augustus Lovett, M. D., of Eaton, was born August 14, 1849, near Colerain, Hamilton county, Ohio. His parents were William Taylor Lovett and Eliza Ann (Larrison) Lovett. His father was born in Leicestershire, England, in 1808, came to the United States when a young man, drifted to Cincinnati, and married Eliza Ann Larrison, who was born near Cincinnati, in 1811. The name Lovett is of English origin, the family bearing the name being one of the oldest of England. The Larrisons are of German lineage, and the mother of our subject possessed that strong will power and force of character peculiar to the German people. She was a woman

of sterling qualities and remarkable memory, especially for events, dates and faces. William Taylor Lovett was a man of deep convictions, firmness of character and high moral nature. He led an industrious, useful and upright life. Farming was his life pursuit. When the subject of this review was less than one year old, his parents removed to Franklin county, Indiana, and located on a farm near Brookville, and here they remained for sixteen years, at the close of which they removed to Oxford, Ohio, where the father lived retired from active business affairs until his death, which occurred in the year 1878. His wife survived him several years. Her death occurred in 1893. This worthy couple spent their lives mostly in farming, and by means of their industry and frugality they were rewarded with an ample competence for old age. Unto them were born two sons and four daughters, all of whom are living and succeeding in life, though none have become eminent. It is our pleasure to now write, in brief mention, of one of these sons.

Dr. Alfred A. Lovett was born and reared on a farm, and farm work was the work of his youth. On the farm he learned lessons of industry and perseverance which have characterized his whole life; and his love for the pursuits of his youth has been permanent, so much so that at present we find him largely interested in farming, owning and operating some three hundred and sixty acres of fine farm land in Preble county. Until he was sixteen his schooling was confined to the country schols. At the age of seventeen years he entered Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, where he spent five years, graduating with the degree of A. B. By reason of his pursuing, during the last two years of his college course, an

extra course he received the honorary degree of A. M. He graduated at Miami University in the class of 1873, and for the succeeding school years he taught successfully as superintendent of the public schools of Goodland, Newton county, Indiana.

During this year, as well as previous years, when spare time would permit, he read medicine. In the fall of 1874 he entered Hahnemann Medical College at Philadelphia, where he graduated with distinction in March, 1876.

Locating at Shippensburg, Pennsylvania, shortly after his graduation, he began there the practice of medicine. Two years later the Doctor was called home on account of the illness from which his father died in the fall of 1878. In that same fall Dr. Lovett located in Eaton, where he has since resided and been actively and successfully engaged in the practice of his profession. Soon after coming to Eaton, the Doctor had gained a remunerative practice. He has been a close student, which fact, together with a wide range of experience in practice, has gained for him a position among able and skillful physicians. For many years he was the only homeopathist in Preble county, and his success resulted in bringing several other physicians of the same school of medicine into the county. For many years Dr. Lovett has held membership in the Southwestern Ohio Homeopathic Medical Society, and also in the Ohio State Medical Society. Fraternally he is a Royal Arch Mason, and politically an ardent and uncompromising Republican. In matters of education the Doctor has taken a deep interest, and for several years he was an efficient member of the Eaton board of education, serving a part of the time as the president of the board.

In 1880 was celebrated the marriage of

Dr. Lovett to Miss Nettie F. Minor, a daughter of Dr. W. H. H. B. Minor, a physician of distinction and a man of learning, strong individuality and force of character. Mrs. Lovett inherited his traits of character, and is a lady of refinement, and culture and impress of her sterling qualities rests upon her children and in the social circles in which she has moved. Her family lineage is traced to Welsh origin. To her and the Doctor have been born two children, viz.: Martha P. and W. Lloyd E., bright and interesting, giving promise of success in life. Religiously the family is of the Presbyterian church persuasion, and socially they sustain high relations.

JOHN MILLS.

New Paris has no more honored or highly esteemed citizen than the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He is a native of Preble county, born in Monroe township, January 27, 1824. His paternal grandfather, Joseph Mills, a farmer by occupation, was born in Ireland, and on his emigration to America in 1810 at once located in Clinton county, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life. Among his descendants were thirty-five school teachers, some of whom have been distinguished educators and principals of colleges. Two of his descendants have been members of the Ohio legislature.

John Mills, our subject's father, was also a native of Ireland, and was seventeen years of age when he came to America in 1810. During his early residence in Clinton county, Ohio, he worked at anything he could find to do. He was married in Warren county, to Miss Elizabeth Compton, a native of South Carolina, and a daughter of Amos

Compton, who, being a member of the Society of Friends and opposed to the institution of slavery, came north in 1805, during the childhood of Mrs. Mills, and settled in Greene county, Ohio. He was probably of Irish and English descent. In 1820 John Mills came to Preble county and took up a quarter-section of land in Monroe township, forty acres of which he cleared and erected thereon a log house, making his home there until the spring of 1829. He then moved to what is known as the Mills farm, two and three-quarters miles south and east of New Paris, Ohio, and he cleared forty acres of that tract. He died there in 1835. In politics he was a Whig, and he held office in Monroe township before receiving his naturalization papers. His wife died at the age of fifty-six years.

To this worthy couple were born eight children who grew to manhood or womanhood, of whom our subject is the third child and third son. Only four are now living. His brothers, William C. and Joseph, both deceased, were prominent men of this county, the former having served several years as a justice of the peace, and as county commissioner two terms. Amos is a resident of Illinois, and Henry F. makes his home in Greene county, Ohio. Joseph, deceased, served in the same company as our subject during the civil war. George is a resident of Warren county, Ohio. Elizabeth, deceased, was the wife of William Graves, and Rebecca, deceased, was the wife of Elijah Hill.

John Mills was reared on the home farm, and was married August 24, 1848, to Sarah Brodrick, who was born in Darke county, Ohio, December 8, 1828, and is the second in order of birth in a family of five girls. Her parents, John D. and Mary (Wilson)

Brodrick, were natives of Ohio and Kentucky, respectively. To our subject and his wife were born five children, namely: Mary E. is the wife of John Davis, of Green's Fork, Indiana, and they have two daughters—Leona A. and Blanch. George W., a resident of Williamsville, Illinois, married Ola Woofen, and they have three children—Roy, Walter and Vera. Wilson P. married first Rosella McWhinny, by whom he had three daughters—Olive L., Jessie M. and Clara B., and for his second wife married Ida Davidson, by whom he had one daughter, Irene. Charles F. married first Tella Daily and secondly Hannah M. Painter. Ella J. is the wife of Samuel Wilson, a farmer and stock-raiser of Warren county, Ohio.

On the 2d of May, 1864, during the civil war, Mr. Mills enlisted as a private in the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio National Guards, and was promoted as corporal, being mustered out as such after four months' service, in September, 1864. He made his home on the Mills farm until 1883, when he retired from active life and moved to New Paris, which has since been his home with the exception of two years spent on a farm three-quarters of a mile south of that town. The greater part of his life has been devoted to agricultural pursuits, but he also taught as many as seven terms of school when a young man, both in Darke and Preble counties. Eighteen dollars a month was the highest wages he ever received, and while teaching in a log schoolhouse in district No. 6, Jefferson township, Preble county, he received only thirteen dollars a month. It was while teaching in Darke county that he became acquainted with the young lady who became his wife. He owned the first two-horse corn-planter ever brought to Jefferson

township, and his father had the first metal moldboard plow ever used within its borders.

Mr. Mills cast his first presidential vote for Taylor in 1848; voted for Scott in 1852; for Fremont in 1856; and Lincoln in 1860 and 1864. He is still a staunch supporter of the Republican party, has served as school director for about twenty-seven years, and has also filled the office of justice of the peace. Both he and his wife are active and prominent members of the Christian church of New Paris, he having united with the same in 1849, his wife in 1846. For thirty years he has filled the office of elder.

MICHAEL CAHILL.

Michael Cahill, who is now occupying the position of prosecuting attorney of Eaton, is one of the leading members of the Preble county bar. He was born in Euphemia, this county, on the 13th of September, 1861, and is of Irish lineage. His grandfather, James Cahill, and his father, Patrick Cahill, were both natives of the Emerald Isle, and in 1846 the latter came to America, crossing the Atlantic to New York, whence he made his way westward to Cincinnati and Dayton. In 1854 he took up his abode in Euphemia. He was a hard-working man, very industrious and energetic. He married Miss Bridget Fennessey, a daughter of James Fennessey, of Cincinnati, and a representative of a prominent old family of Ireland. They became the parents of five children, of whom four are yet living, namely: James, a farmer of Preble county; Alice, the wife of L. P. Soddors, of Montgomery county, Ohio; John, who is a dealer in monuments at Lewisburg; and Michael, of Eaton. Mary Ann died aged about eighteen years. The father of these chil-

dren died in February, 1892, and the mother was called to her final rest in April, 1899.

Michael Cahill pursued his education in the country schools, in the normal school for one year and in the high school at Lewisburg, Ohio. During the periods of vacation he worked upon a farm and in a brickyard, and the money thus acquired enabled him to continue his studies. Realizing the importance of education he gained a broad and practical general knowledge to serve as a firm foundation upon which to rear the superstructure of professional learning. He has successfully engaged in teaching at different intervals between the years 1884 and 1898, and displayed excellent ability as an educator. He has also been employed in a dry-goods store and has worked as a stone cutter. It was his desire, however, to enter professional life, and these various occupations have been used only as a means to an end. He began reading law in 1880, under the direction of I. E. Freeman and James A. Gilmore, pursuing his studies at night. His home was at Lewisburg, ten miles from the place where he pursued his studies, and in order to receive instructions he traveled that distance. In the fall of 1889 he was elected a justice of the peace of Harrison township and capably and impartially discharged the duties of the office until November, 1892, when he resigned in order to enter the Cincinnati Law School. Successfully passing the examinations, he was enrolled as a member of the senior class and was graduated in the spring of 1893, after which he was immediately admitted to the bar. The class chartered a car going to Columbus, where they took the necessary examination for admission, and Mr. Cahill was among the number licensed to practice.

For three years he resided in Dayton,

where he opened a law and real-estate office; but the hard times which followed caused him to lose all that he had made. He then went to Lewisburg, where he remained until the fall of 1899, when he was elected prosecuting attorney for Preble county. He had served as a corporation clerk at Lewisburg and also as a justice of the peace. In June, 1900, he formed a partnership with Hon. A. M. Crisler, in the practice of law.

On the 14th of July, 1889, Mr. Cahill was united in marriage to Miss M. Belle Mills, a daughter of Jewett Mills, of Montgomery county. They now have one child, Clyde. Mr. Cahill certainly deserves great credit for his success in life, for what he has accomplished is the result of determined purpose and unflagging energy, whereby he has steadily worked his way upward in the face of many difficulties and obstacles, his resolute will enabling him to overcome all these and to-day he occupies a creditable position at the bar. He is an example of the boys who educate themselves and secure their own start in life—determined, self-reliant boys, willing to work for advancement which others secure through inheritance, destined by sheer force of character to succeed in the face of all opposition and to push to the front in one branch of enterprise or another. As a member of the legal profession he has displayed marked ability. He prepares his cases with great thoroughness and precision and in argument is logical, strong and convincing.

HON. GRIFFIN H. EIDSON.

There has been no man of Eaton more widely and honorably known than Griffin H. Eidson, whose name is almost synonymous with that of the city, owing to the fact that

his efforts have greatly advanced its material interests and its progress along social and moral lines. As practical politics claimed much of his time while he was a Republican in early life, and later a Democrat, his political services must necessarily be held secondary to those of much greater importance, his public spirit, progressiveness and liberality. In business he was very active, and at all times his career was characterized by the strictest fidelity to the ethics of commercial life. He belonged to that class of Americans who while promoting individual prosperity also advance the general good. Friendship was to him inviolable, and many are those who have obtained from him kindly counsel and generous assistance. He died March 29, 1897, and no death in Eaton has been more deeply mourned. However, the veil was lifted to gain the new glory of the true and beautiful life when death set the seal upon his mortal lips. Any monument erected to his memory and to commemorate his virtues would become dim and tarnished by time ere the recollection of his noble example shall cease to exert an influence upon the community in which he lived and labored to such worthy ends.

Mr. Eidson was a native of Lanier township, Preble county, his birth having occurred there on the 26th of October, 1827. His parents were Boyce and Rebecca Ann (Griffin) Eidson, who came with their respective families to Ohio as early as 1808. The father was a native of Virginia, and after arriving at man's estate he carried on farming and also conducted a hotel in Camden. Mr. Eidson, of this review, spent the first sixteen years of his life upon the home farm, and during that time pursued his education in the country schools. He then went to Hamilton, where he learned the tanner

and currier's trade as an apprentice of Samuel Snively, his term of service beginning in 1843. Four years later his father died, and thus when in his twentieth year the arduous task of caring for his widowed mother and a family of eleven children, all younger than himself, devolved upon him. Nobly did he take up the burden and not only cared for the members of the family but also gave to his four brothers a start in business.

In the spring of 1848 he came to Eaton and entered the employ of Joseph Wilson, working at his trade until 1851, when he bought out his employer, continuing the business on his own account along that line until 1856. He then opened a general store, dealing in leather findings and carrying on an extensive business in Eaton, which was at that time an important commercial center. From 1859 until 1861 he was in Cincinnati, but with the exception of that period was a continuous resident of Eaton from the spring of 1848 until his death. In 1861 he returned to this city and embarked in the grocery business. In 1866 he established a hardware store which for many years was conducted under the firm name of Eidson & De Groot, the partners being known as the leading hardware dealers of the county. Mr. Eidson continued his connection with that branch of merchandising until August, 1892, when he began dealing in coal, sewer pipe, lime, etc. He entered into partnership with C. H. Parsons, under the firm name of Eidson & Parsons, a connection that was maintained until the death of our subject. He was a man of resourceful business ability who carried forward to successful completion whatever he undertook. For a number of years he was the president of the Farmers and Citizens' Bank of Eaton, and his capable control of that institution made it

one of the most reliable financial concerns in this section of the state.

On the 26th of October, 1853, Mr. Eidson was united in marriage to Miss Permelia Jane De Groot, a daughter of John De Groot, of New Jersey, who was of Holland descent. Their only child died in early life. Mrs. Eidson still survives her husband. She is a member of the Presbyterian church, takes an active part in its work and contributes liberally to its support. Mr. Eidson did not hold membership in the church, but gave very generously for the support of the gospel and was one of the largest contributors in the erection of the fine house of worship in Eaton. His life was permeated with the Christian spirit of helpfulness, charity and kindness. He was the chairman of the building committee at the time of the erection of the Presbyterian church, and it was to his efforts more than to any one else that the church owes its existence today. He was a member of the board of directors of the County Children's Home, and took a deep interest in that work, which provided for the care, shelter and careful nurture of the homeless little ones.

A recognized leader in public thought and movement, his influence was most marked in all the affairs which concerned the general welfare. He was a prominent representative of the Democracy of Preble county, took a very deep and active interest in local politics and was serving as a member of the county election board at the time of his death. For twenty-one years he was the corporation clerk of Eaton, was a member of the school board for several years, and was recognized as a warm friend of the cause of education. His labors in this direction while on the school board were productive of the greatest good and their in-

fluence cannot be measured. He was a member of the house of representatives in 1874-5, being elected as an independent candidate, and in that body he made an excellent record as a reformer as well as an energetic and zealous legislator. In February, 1874, there was introduced into the house a resolution of which he was the author, known as the anti-monopoly school-book resolution, under which a committee was appointed to inquire into the grievance of submission to the exorbitant prices of school-books, and to report some manner by which a uniform series of text-books could be provided in the schools. In this work he won distinction and also the gratitude of the parents throughout the state. In September, 1875, he was unanimously nominated for the position of state senator and accepted the candidacy, but subsequently declined, in the belief that the demands of his business prevented him from meeting the wishes of his constituency.

He served on the staff of Governor Bishop, with the rank of colonel. He was also a member of the city council, serving in that position at the time the opera house was built. Of the Odd Fellows society he was a very valued representative. Over his life record there falls no shadow of wrong nor suspicion of evil. As a business man he had no superior and few equals. He was prompt, accurate, systematic and above all honest and straightforward in all his dealings. Though he started out in life a poor boy, not only dependent on his own exertions for his own support, but having eleven others dependent upon him, yet by his labors he rose to a position of wealth and acquired this competence entirely through the legitimate channels of trade. He was a large-hearted man, who had a deep and sincere in-

terest in his fellow men and their welfare. Those who won his friendship knew him to be faithful to the end, and the respect accorded him was shown at the time of his death, when all the business houses in the city closed during the funeral services, while the business men attended the solemn obsequies in a body. His influence cannot die, for the good is imperishable and his worth as a man and citizen should prove as an example to all who knew him.

C. H. PARSONS.

Occupying an enviable position in business circles in Eaton, having succeeded his uncle, Griffin H. Eidson, in the control of an important concern, C. H. Parsons was born in Galesburg, Illinois, on the 4th of August, 1868. His grandfather was David H. Parsons, and his father was P. H. Parsons, a native of Ashtabula county, Ohio. While on a visit in Eaton his mother died and since that time Mr. Parsons has lived with his aunt, Mrs. Eidson. He pursued his education in the common schools and in college at Dayton, Ohio, where he was graduated with the class of 1892. Returning to Eaton he then entered upon his business career, and is now managing the affairs left by his uncle. He is energetic, resolute and enterprising and is well known as a reliable young business man. He belongs to the order of Knights of Pythias, and is also a member of the Presbyterian church.

JAMES L. SAYLER.

Although one of the younger members of the bar, James L. Sayler has already attained a position in legal circles of which many an older practitioner might well be

proud. His ability and close application have won for him favorable comment, and his success is assured in a profession where success depends entirely upon individual merit.

James L. Sayler was born March 23, 1871, in Winchester, the town which his great-grandfather assisted in founding. He is indebted to the public-school system for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. His preparation for the bar was obtained in the law department of the Cincinnati College, at which institution he was graduated on the 30th of May, 1894. On the 31st he was admitted to the bar, and since 1895 has been engaged in practice in Eaton, where his advancement has been continuous. The success which he has attained is due to his own efforts and merits. The possession of advantages is no guarantee whatever of professional success. This comes not of itself, nor can it be secured without integrity, ability and industry, and these qualities Mr. Sayler possesses to an eminent degree. He was master commissioner in the Springfield, Jackson & Pomeroy Railroad case, being appointed by the court to determine who the stockholders were and their liabilities, together with the amounts due to the creditors. April 16, 1900, he was admitted to practice in the United States courts for the sixth circuit and southern district of Ohio. On the 11th day of the same month he was appointed referee in bankruptcy for Preble county, under the act of July 1, 1898. Mr. Sayler is a member of the local and Ohio State Bar Associations.

Our subject is also a member of Bolivar Lodge, No. 84, F. & A. M. For some years he has been a member of the Christian church. His genial manner makes

him popular in all circles, and his friends in the community are almost as many as his acquaintance.

ISAAC ULRICH.

The name of this gentleman appears on the roster of county officials of Preble county and he is now filling the office of county commissioner, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. He is also one of the leading and representative farmers of Lanier township and is justly regarded as one of the valued citizens of his locality.

A native of Montgomery county, Ohio, he was born in Jackson township, September 25, 1846, and is a son of Adam and Lena (Oldfather) Ulrich. His great-grandparents were Martin and Dorothea Ulrich. His grandfather, Adam Ulrich, was born in the Keystone state, November 8, 1775, and was of German lineage. Some generations remote the name was spelled Ulrey. In 1828 Adam Ulrich removed with his family from Pennsylvania to Ohio and from the government entered a quarter section of land in Jackson township, two miles west of Farmersville, in Montgomery county. There he and his wife spent their remaining days, his death occurring on the 28th of November, 1841. He was an ardent and consistent member of the Lutheran church and an earnest Christian gentleman who enjoyed the confidence and respect of all. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Ann Hughes, was born in Pennsylvania, September 11, 1786, and was a daughter of Owen and Elizabeth (Jenkins) Hughes, who were of Quaker parentage. She was reared in that faith and hers was an upright life that shed its influence for good upon all with whom she came in contact. She died January 4, 1838.

Her son, Adam Ulrich, the father of our subject, was born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania, June 25, 1815, and was fourteen years of age when he came with his parents to the Buckeye state. He was one of eight children, the others being Catherine, Dorothea, Sarah, Elizabeth, Mary, Margaret and Isaac, all of whom are now deceased. He was reared on the old family homestead in this state, and as his parents were well advanced in years when they came to Ohio, the management of the farm early devolved upon him.

After the death of his parents he purchased the old homestead, and as a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Miss Lena Oldfather, their marriage being celebrated on the 19th of June, 1845. She was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, a daughter of John and Susan (Foutz) Oldfather. The former was a native of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, born January 25, 1796, and his death occurred on the 23d of September, 1874. In 1811 he came to Ohio with his parents, Henry and Catherine (Zigler) Oldfather, who located in Jackson township, Montgomery county, where Henry Oldfather built a mill on Twin creek. That property later passed into the hands of his son John and some years later was rebuilt by him. The old mill is still standing, one of the few landmarks of pioneer days which yet remains. John Oldfather was a devout member of the Reformed church and for many years served as one of its elders. His wife, a daughter of Michael Foutz, was born in Montgomery county, whither he removed from North Carolina. At the time of his marriage Adam Ulrich located upon a farm and throughout his business career he carried on agricultural pursuits. He met with suc-

cess, and as his financial resources increased he added to his property until his landed possessions were very extensive. In 1877 he retired from active business life and removed to Farmersville, where he died July 12, 1887. In his family were eight children, seven of whom are yet living, namely: Sarah, the wife of Joseph Kinsey, a farmer of Montgomery county, Ohio; Isaac; John H.; Joseph, who carries on agricultural pursuits in Montgomery county; Mary, deceased; Susan, wife of Harvey Cook, an agriculturist of Montgomery county; Jennie, wife of Franklin Rohrer, a farmer of Harrison township, Preble county, and Owen M., who is in the postoffice service in West Dayton, Ohio.

Upon the home farm Mr. Ulrich spent the days of his boyhood and youth, working in the fields through the summer months, while in the winter seasons he pursued his education in the public schools. Soon after he had attained his majority he purchased from his father the farm upon which he now resides, and through the four succeeding years he continued to make his home with his parents, operating his own land. He then chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Mary C. Nicodemus, the wedding being celebrated on the 20th of March, 1873. The lady is a native of Gratis township, Preble county, and a daughter of John and Mary A. (Beachler) Nicodemus. Her father was a native of this county, and a son of Joshua Nicodemus, who came to Ohio from Maryland in his early manhood. In this state he wedded Mary Shuey, who was born near Germantown, Montgomery county, and they began their domestic life upon a farm near Winchester, where the grandfather acquired an extensive tract of land. Through

business reverses in later years, however, he lost his property and spent his last days in the home of his daughter in Winchester. He was at one time an extensive farmer and for a number of years also owned and operated a mill, which was built by Mr. Neff. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ulrich have been born four children—Jesse E., Jennie S., Walter R. and Edgar F.

After his marriage Mr. Ulrich and his young wife took up their abode upon his farm and with characteristic energy he began its improvement, making a very desirable home for his family. In 1875 he erected his present handsome country residence and later built one of the finest barns in the township. As his financial resources increased he has extended the boundaries of his place until it now comprises two hundred and ten acres. In addition he owns a farm of one hundred and fifty-eight acres in Gasper township, three miles south of Eaton. He has prospered in his undertakings, his diligence, resolution and keen discrimination, combined with unfaltering energy, bringing to him a handsome financial return for his labor.

Mr. Ulrich is one of the best known and most highly esteemed residents of Preble county and withholds his support from no movement or measure calculated to prove of public good. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and he provided his children with excellent opportunities in that direction. His sons, Walter and Jesse, have attended business college in Dayton and Jacob has been a student in a shorthand college. Mr. Ulrich served for nine years as a member of the school board and did all in his power to promote the effectiveness of schools. In politics he is a stalwart Democrat, and in 1891 was elected on that ticket

to the office of township trustee, in which capacity he served continuously until the spring of 1900, discharging his duties with marked fidelity. In 1899 he was nominated and elected to the office of county commissioner and is now the incumbent of this office. He and his wife hold membership in the Reformed church and for nine years he has been one of its deacons. Mr. Ulrich is a man of sterling worth, of high moral character and of genuine public spirit. His word is as good as his bond and in all life's relations he is found true to duty and faithful to every trust reposed in him.

JOHN H. ULRICH.

In taking up the personal history of Mr. Ulrich we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known as an enterprising and prominent farmer of Preble county. His life has been in a manner quiet and uneventful, but to the serious-minded student in such a history there are to be found lessons of value, for he has ever been true to his duty to himself, to his neighbor and to his country. Ohio claims him among her native sons, for his birth occurred in Montgomery county, on the 29th of December, 1847. He represents one of the old families of Pennsylvania. His great-grandparents were Martin and Dorothea Ulrich. His grandfather, Adam Ulrich, was born in the Keystone state, and was of German lineage. In 1828 Adam Ulrich removed with his family from Pennsylvania to Ohio and settled in Jackson township, two miles from Farmersville, in Montgomery county. There he and his wife spent their remaining days.

Adam Ulrich, the father of our subject, was born in Lebanon county, Pennsylvania,

June 25, 1815, and was fourteen years of age when he came with his parents to the Buckeye state. As a companion and help-mate on life's journey he chose Miss Lena Oldfather, their marriage being celebrated on the 19th of June, 1845. She was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, a daughter of John and Susan (Foutz) Oldfather. The former was a native of Somerset county, Pennsylvania, and in 1811 came to Ohio with his parents, Henry and Catherine (Zigler) Oldfather, who located in Jackson township, Montgomery county. At the time of his marriage Adam Ulrich located upon a farm and throughout his business career he carried on agricultural pursuits. He met with success and as his financial resources increased he added to his property until his landed possessions were very extensive. In 1877 he retired from active business life and removed to Farmersville, where he died July 12, 1887. In his family were eight children, seven of whom are yet living, namely: Sarah, the wife of Joseph Kinsey, a farmer of Montgomery county, Ohio; Isaac; John H.; Joseph, who carries on agricultural pursuits in Montgomery county; Mary, deceased; Susan, wife of Harvey Cook, an agriculturist of Montgomery county; Jennie, wife of Franklin Rohrer, a farmer of Harrison township, Preble county, and Owen M., who is in the postoffice service in West Dayton, Ohio.

John H. Ulrich spent his boyhood days in the usual manner of farmer lads of that period. He assisted in the work of field and meadow, and in the common schools acquired his education. March 15, 1871, he married Miss Catherine Blackwell, a native of Virginia, who died in 1877, leaving one child, Ida, who is now the wife of John Smith, a farmer of Lanier township. On

the 15th of December, 1879, Mr. Ulrich chose for a second wife Miss Clara J. Fisher, a native of Lanier township, Preble county, and a daughter of David and Sarah A. (Neff) Fisher, both of whom were natives of this county, the father born November 28, 1828, and the mother on the 20th of April, 1827. Her death occurred November 24, 1887. Her paternal grandfather was Abraham Fisher and her maternal grandfather Christian Neff, and both were among the pioneer settlers of Preble county. The latter was a miller and built a mill on Twin creek, in Lanier township, where he carried on business for many years. After the marriage of David Fisher and Sarah Neff they took up their abode on the old Neff place and Mr. Fisher conducted a saw mill for some time. Later he engaged in farming, and after the death of his wife he removed to the state of Washington, in 1892, and is now making his home there with his son. He had eight children, six of whom are living. In order of birth they are as follows: Charlie, now deceased; Ira; Clara J.; Christian; Ella, wife of John Roberts, of Lanier township; Rosa, deceased; Dolly, wife of John Bush, of Lanier township, and Kittie, the wife of Dessa Bookwalter, of Gratis township. Unto Mr. Ulrich and his second wife were born eight children: Charles, who married Lavinia Kuhlenkamp and is now living in Winchester, his energies being devoted to teaching in the district schools; Warren; Crissie and Carrie, twins; Adam; Roy and Ray, who were twins, but the latter is now deceased, and Grace, who completes the family.

After his marriage Mr. Ulrich located on the farm where he now lives. It was an eighty-acre tract at that time, owned by his father. Subsequently he purchased eighty

acres, later eighty acres more, and still later another tract of forty acres. He has made many substantial improvements upon the place, including the erection, in 1882, of his commodious brick residence. From his perseverance, industry and capable management he has become one of the substantial farmers of Preble county, and his landed possessions now comprise two hundred acres. He makes a specialty of the raising of cattle and is also extensively engaged in the raising of other stock. His business is carefully prosecuted and his success is well merited.

Mr. Ulrich has always been deeply interested in educational work, the schools finding in him a stanch friend. For twelve years he served as a member of the school board, doing all in his power to advance the efficient work done by the teachers and pupils. His political support is given the Democracy. In his religious belief he is a Lutheran, while his wife is connected with the Dunkards. He is now serving for the third year as an elder in his church and his life is in harmony with his profession, for at all times he has been honorable and upright in his dealings and faithful to every trust. Energy and industry have been the salient features in his prosperity and his example should serve to encourage others who are forced to begin life dependent entirely upon their own efforts.

JAMES L. QUINN, M. D.

Dr. James L. Quinn, who in the exercise of his professional duties has won increasing respect and admiration by his ability and his strict regard for the unwritten ethical code of his profession, was born on a farm in Twin township, September 21, 1841.

At a pioneer epoch in the development of Preble county the Quinn family was founded within its borders, and its members have since been prominent in connection with public affairs which have contributed to the general welfare, upbuilding and prosperity. His parents, General John and Mary Ann (Pottinger) Quinn, were natives of Georgia and Butler county, Ohio, respectively. His father came to the Buckeye state in his seventeenth year, and his mother's people were among the first settlers of Butler county. The Doctor was reared upon a farm and in the public schools acquired his elementary education, which was supplemented by study in Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio. He entered that institution in 1860, pursuing a classical course, but the outbreak of the civil war prevented the completion of the regular course. He enlisted on the 2d of May, 1864, as a member of Company D, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, serving for four months in Cincinnati, Kentucky and Maryland. He was engaged in patrol duty and in guarding government property. In Maryland, however, he did general military duty, and on the 1st of September, 1864, his term having expired, he received an honorable discharge. He attended a commercial college in Cincinnati through the following winter, and in the winter of 1865 engaged in teaching school in Butler county, Ohio; but this was merely a means to an end, for it was his desire to become a member of the medical profession. He began the study of medicine in 1866, under private tutors, and attended his first course of lectures in Miami College, at Cincinnati, during the winter of 1867-8. In the institution he pursued three courses, one a summer course, and was graduated on the 1st of March, 1869. He was then appointed

resident physician in the Cincinnati hospital, and his first year in practice was spent there. He gained thereby an excellent knowledge of the practical work of his profession, and in the spring of 1870 he established a private office in Cincinnati, where he remained for more than a year. In 1871, however, he located in Muncie, Indiana, but soon decided to establish a home in Eaton, where he opened an office in May, 1872. He has since been in constant practice in this city, and his business has continually increased, both in volume and importance, so that he is now accounted one of the most successful and able practitioners of Preble county. He has been connected with the Hospital Internes Society of Cincinnati, and with the local medical societies of a professional character, thereby keeping in touch with the progress that is constantly being made by the medical fraternity.

The Doctor was married in Covington, Kentucky, in 1873, to Elizabeth Quinn, a native of Preble county, and to them have been born four children, namely: Carlotta M., Ruth, John and Lillie; but the second named died at the age of twelve years. The others are with their parents. The Doctor has been connected with the Masonic fraternity since 1871, and is also a member of the Grand Army of the Republic. He has been a life-long Republican in his political views, having cast his first presidential vote for Abraham Lincoln. He is now serving his second term as the coroner of Preble county, has been a member of the board of education, was for two years a member of the pension board of examiners, under President Harrison, and has recently been reappointed to that position by President McKinley. He stands today in a commanding position in the ranks of his profession, where

advancement results entirely from individual merit, and is likewise prominent as a citizen and a man. A gentleman of fine address and thorough culture, he also occupies a first place in society as well as in medical circles, and in the history of Preble county he well deserves mention.

HON. ROBERT W. QUINN.

The profession of the law, when clothed with its true dignity and purity and strength, must rank first among the callings of men, as it relates to the rights of man. The work of the legal profession is to formulate, to harmonize, to regulate, to adjust, to administer those rules and principles that underlie and permeate all government and society and control the various relations of man. As thus viewed there attaches to the legal profession a nobleness that cannot but be reflected in the life of the true lawyer, who, conscious of the greatness of his profession, and honest in the pursuit of his purpose, embraces the richness of learning, the profoundness of wisdom, the firmness of integrity and the purity of morals, together with the graces of modesty, courtesy and the general amenities of life. Of this class of lawyers Hon. Robert Wilson Quinn is a worthy representative and through a third of a century he has been numbered among the leading members of the Eaton bar.

He represents one of the most honored pioneer families of the state, his great-grandfather, John Quinn, having emigrated from the north of Ireland to the new world about the year 1750. He located in New Jersey and some time afterward was united in marriage to Miss Crooks, by whom he had ten children, five of whom, four sons and a daughter, ultimately came to Ohio. The

sons who thus founded the family in the then far west were John, Robert, James and Joseph C. The daughter was Elizabeth, who subsequently became Mrs. Bennett and removed to Indiana at an early day.

Of this family Robert Quinn was the paternal grandfather of our subject. He was born in New Jersey, February 24, 1761, and during his boyhood accompanied his father's family to Maryland, and in after years removed to Virginia and in 1789 to Georgia. He served his country in the war of the Revolution. He was married in 1787 to Elizabeth Lacy, a sister of General John Lacy, who served with distinction in the war of the Revolution. Elizabeth Lacy was born December 4, 1760, and was an ardent seeker after knowledge, becoming a lady of superior mental culture. From Georgia they removed to Ohio, in the year 1805, settling in Montgomery county, near Germantown. A year later they came into what is now Lanier township, Preble county, and rented a farm a mile and a half south of the present site of West Alexandria. The same year Mr. Quinn entered the southeast quarter of section 31, township 6, range 3, and not long afterward entered the southeast quarter of section 18, in the same township. This farm he and his son developed and improved, and it remained the property of his descendants for three-quarters of a century.

John Quinn, the eldest son of this pioneer, and usually known as General Quinn, was the father of our subject. He was born in Columbia county, Georgia, near the town of Wrightsboro, January 26, 1790, and was in his sixteenth year when the family came to Ohio. He inherited his mother's fondness for literary pursuits, although his early education was limited by reason of the poor school facilities, but his studious habits and

extensive reading made him a thoroughly well informed man. Being the eldest son, much of the work of clearing the land and transforming it into a good farm devolved upon him. As the years went by his brothers, James and Robert, grew to manhood and married, leaving him still to care for the home property. He served for six months as a sergeant in the war of 1812, under the command of Captain J. C. Hawkins, of the Ohio militia, and about 1824 he was elected the general of the militia of Preble county, thus obtaining the title by which he was ever afterward known. He served as a member of the state board of equalization of real estate and in the year 1830 was elected sheriff of Preble county, which position he held for two terms, retiring January 1, 1835. In the fall of 1837 he was elected a member of the house of representatives of Ohio, that service ending his career as a public official. He was a citizen in whom the public trust was well reposed, for he ever placed the general good before party prejudice and the welfare of his community before self-aggrandizement. In politics he was a Whig and afterward a Republican. Firm in his convictions, his opinions could be altered only by incontrovertible logic, yet he never entered into heated controversy. For many years he was an elder in the Disciples church, or Church of Christ, and labored earnestly to advance the cause of true religion among his fellow men; and he harmonized his life with its great principles.

General Quinn was married July 19, 1831, to Mary Ann Pottinger, a daughter of Thomas Pottinger, one of the pioneers of Butler county, Ohio, in which county Mrs. Quinn was born January 2, 1804. As the infirmities of age came creeping on this worthy couple retired from their farm and in

1872 came to Eaton to reside in the family of their son, Robert W., their last days being happily spent in his home. The father died on the 12th of February, 1873, and the mother survived him for two weeks. The funeral discourse of each was delivered by Elder Levi Purviance, an aged minister who had united them in marriage nearly forty-two years before.

Robert Wilson Quinn of this review is the eldest living child of their family. Their first born was Thomas Pottinger Quinn, who died of cholera in 1854. He was then a young man of twenty-two years, pursuing law studies, and seemed to have a bright future before him. Their third son, John Willett Quinn, entered the Union army in 1861 as a member of the Seventy-fifth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and died of typhoid fever in the spring of 1862, in his twenty-third year. James Lacy Quinn, the fourth son, is a practicing physician of Eaton. He was born September 21, 1841, and was also a defender of the Union during the civil war. Samuel Milton, who served for a short time in the army, studied law with his brother Robert in Eaton, later pursued a course in the Cincinnati Law College, and is now a practicing attorney at the Cincinnati bar.

Judge Quinn, whose name introduces this record, was born on the 28th of September, 1835, at his father's country residence in Twin township, Preble county. His elementary education was acquired in the public schools, wherein were taught the common English branches of learning, including reading, writing, arithmetic, geography and English grammar. Occasionally a teacher could be secured who was capable of giving instructions in elementary algebra. On leaving the public schools he became a student in Farmers' College, in the fall of 1853, and,

with the exception of six months spent as teacher, he remained in that institution until July, 1856. Soon after the completion of his literary course he began the study of law under the direction of Hon. William J. Gilmore, of Eaton, who was afterward one of the justices of the supreme court of the state. He continued his reading for about two years and then entered the law department of the Cincinnati College, in which he was graduated in April, 1858. Successfully passing an examination, he was admitted to the bar in Cincinnati. Among his classmates were several who have attained distinction in the affairs of the nation. These include the Hon. Edmund T. Noyes, late United States minister to France; Hon. Samuel McKee, of Kentucky; and Judges Avery and Moore, of the common-pleas bench of Hamilton county.

After his graduation Judge Quinn spent a year in the office of the firm of Bates & Scarborough, of Cincinnati, in order to better familiarize himself with the details of office work. A short time before the inauguration of the civil war he returned to his father's farm and did not resume practice until after the close of hostilities. During the rebellion he served for four months in the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, enlisting under the emergency call for one-hundred-day men. He took part in the battle of Fulk's Mill, near Cumberland, Maryland, but his regiment was mostly engaged in guard duty.

In April, 1867, Mr. Quinn removed to Eaton, where he entered upon the practice of his chosen profession, which he has continued up to the present time. In February, 1875, he was admitted to practice in the circuit court of the United States at Cincinnati. He has been very successful as a

lawyer and, with little liking for the criminal branch of jurisprudence, he has devoted his attention almost exclusively to civil law. Along these lines he has been engaged either as attorney or referee in many of the most complex cases of the county. In the fall of 1881 he was elected the probate judge of Preble county, taking possession of the office February 9, 1882, and in the autumn of 1884 he was again elected, serving for six years in all. His knowledge of the law is comprehensive and exact, and he has gained prestige in a profession where advancement depends entirely upon individual merit.

Judge Quinn has been twice married, his first wife being Miss Josephine Palmer, of Cincinnati, whom he wedded on the 10th of January, 1861. They became the parents of two children. Edmund F., who is a graduate of Princeton College and a lawyer by profession, is now serving as auditing clerk in the United States signal service in the war department at Washington. He was born December 13, 1867. Carrie B., the younger child, was born April 30, 1872, was a graduate of the Eaton high school and died March 30, 1892. The mother of these children died of consumption March 15, 1888. Judge Quinn was again married June 3, 1891, when Miss Emma F. Baird, of Butler county, Ohio, became his wife. She is a daughter of Arthur Baird, a representative of one of the first families of the county. She was educated in the public schools and in a select school, and with her husband shares the warm regard of many friends in Preble county.

The Judge has been a life-long Republican and a close student of the issues of the day, yet has never sought office. He served by appointment for a short term as the mayor

of Eaton, and, with the exception of his service as probate judge, this is the only elective office he ever held. He and his first wife and children were all members of the Disciples church, in which he and his son still have their religious home. His present wife is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. The Judge is a Royal Arch Mason, his identification with the fraternity covering a period of forty-six years. He served for five years as the worshipful master of Bolivar Lodge, No. 82, F. & A. M., was for seven years its secretary and was a charter member of Mulhorn Post, G. A. R. He has been a life-long student, particularly along the lines of literature and general history. He owns one of the finest and most complete historical libraries, besides a valuable selection of miscellaneous publications and reference books and a large professional library. A man of scholarly attainments, his intellectual activity has given him preeminence among the leaders in thought and action in the county of his nativity. Judge Quinn is popular with a large circle of friends and acquaintances who honor and esteem him for his many virtues and his genuine worth. Of large brain and kindly heart, he is interesting and instructive in conversation, courteous and genial in deportment and kindly in manner.

LURTON D. FELTON.

Lurton D. Felton operates a good farm on section 30, Gasper township, and makes a specialty of the breeding of Poland China hogs. He is one of the leading stock men in this section and his capably-managed business interests are bringing to him an excellent financial return. He was born November 30, 1849, on his father's farm

one mile north of his present home. His father, Edward Felton, was a native of North Carolina, born April 22, 1816, and at the age of fourteen he arrived in Ohio. He was of English lineage, for the grandfather of our subject emigrated from the "merrie isle" to North Carolina, where he died at an early age, leaving but one child, Edward. His widow was again married, her second husband being Josiah Elliott, by whom she had several children. She died in the '70s, at an advanced age. Edward Felton, having arrived at years of maturity, chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Talitha C. Wright, who was born in Preble county, June 19, 1821, a daughter of Samuel Wright, who was a native of Ireland. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Felton occurred in 1839, and their union was blessed with six sons and eight daughters. They lost an infant daughter, and John, who died at the age of eighteen years, but the others reached years of maturity. These are: William H., a farmer of Nebraska, who has been twice married and has fourteen children; Millie J., the wife of Edward Maddocks; Susan, the widow of Joseph Skinner, of Illinois, by whom she had one son; Sally, the wife of T. A. White, resides in Anderson, Indiana, having four children, two sons and two daughters: Leah E., the wife of John A. Conger, of Iowa, and the mother of two children; Lurton D., the seventh in order of birth; Samuel, a tile manufacturer of Illinois, who is married and has five children; Nancy, the wife of Roland Wiley, of Kansas, by whom she has four children; Rachel, who married Wesley Skinner, of Illinois, and has four children; Edward, who is living in Nebraska; Caroline, the wife of Isaac Swafford, of Butler county, Ohio, by whom she has two children;

and Alonzo, who is in Iowa. The father of these children died May 26, 1883, and the mother passed away on the 22d of January, 1899.

Lurton D. Felton, whose name introduces this record, obtained his education in the common schools and worked upon the farm through the summer months, assisting in the fields from the time crops were planted until the harvests were garnered in the autumn. He was married January 9, 1872, when twenty-two years of age, to Miss Mary C. Moore, who was born in Butler county, Ohio, but at the time of her marriage resided in Gasper township. Her parents were William and Lavina Moore. Her father was born in Butler county, October 5, 1817, and was a son of Alexander and Mary (Orbison) Moore, the former born in North Carolina, October 3, 1799, and the latter on the 16th of October, 1791. About 1803 the grandfather of Mrs. Felton removed to Cincinnati, Ohio, and afterward went to Butler county, becoming one of its honored pioneer settlers. William Moore obtained a common-school education and also studied surveying. He removed to the vicinity of Logansport, Indiana, where he followed his chosen vocation, being employed as a surveyor in dividing up the reserve into farms when it came into the market. He was married October 1, 1840, to Nancy Cohee, who was born in Hamilton, Ohio, and died April 2, 1846, survived by one of her two children: Rebecca, the wife of G. H. Pierson, of Kansas City, Kansas. Mr. Moore was again married in 1848, his second union being with Lavina Bowman, of Butler county. She was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1827, a daughter of David and Catherine Bowman. By the second marriage of Mr. Moore there were

four children: Silas, an engineer and electrician, who has charge of the lighthouse at Tacoma, on Puget Sound; Mary Catherine, the wife of our subject; Nancy Jane, who became the wife of Irving Flory and died April 1, 1875; and Martha Ellen, who married James Wilson, and after his death became the wife of Thomas Taylor, with whom she now resides near West Elkton. Mr. Moore, the father of these children, engaged in the operation of a saw-mill in Indiana and shipped lumber to Chicago. He followed that pursuit from 1848 until 1862, and in the autumn of 1863 he located on his present farm in Gasper township, Preble county, where he owns one hundred and two acres. He also operated a saw-mill here for several years, but it was burned down in 1866. He carried on general farming for several years, but for a few years past has rented his farm.

The children of Mr. and Mrs. Felton are: Frank D., a railroad man, who resides in Newton, Kansas, with his wife and one daughter; Grace A., the wife of Elmer Vanshiver, by whom she has two sons; Murriel, at home; Roland W., who died at the age of sixteen months; and Guy M., who assists his father in the operation of the home farm. Mr. Felton rents one hundred and ten acres of land and is very successfully engaged in the raising of blooded Poland China swine. He has some very fine stock, all of which could be registered. He is regarded as one of the leading raisers of hogs in this locality and his sales bring to him an excellent financial return.

Mr. Felton was reared in the Methodist faith and his wife is a member of that church. They are well known people, having a wide acquaintance in the county, and the sterling qualities of character which they

display in the relation with their fellow men have gained for them the confidence and good will of many with whom they have been brought in contact.

HENRY P. SMITH.

This gentleman has the distinction of having won the proud American title of a self-made man. Several of the leading enterprises and business interests of Lewisburg bear the impress of his individuality and owe not a little of their success to his ability and capable powers of management. His great determination and energy have enabled him to overcome all the difficulties and obstacles in his path and work his way steadily upward to prosperity. He is known among his fellow townsmen for his reliability in all trade transactions and justly merits their confidence and regard.

Mr. Smith was born in the kingdom of Prussia, Germany, January 18, 1850, but was only two years old when brought to this country by his father, Frederick Smith, also a native of Prussia and a cooper by trade. The family located in Cincinnati, Ohio, where our subject was reared and educated. At the age of fourteen he commenced learning the cigarmaker's trade, which he followed in that city for five years, and then worked at the same in all of the principal cities of the west, including Omaha, Kansas City and St. Louis, returning to Cincinnati in 1871, by way of Iowa, Milwaukee and Chicago. In 1872 he again went to St. Louis, where he spent a year, and on his return to Cincinnati was employed as a traveling salesman for a cigar house one year. In 1874 he accepted a position as salesman for a leaf tobacco house, with which he was connected twelve years.

On the 1st of August, 1886, Mr. Smith came to Lewisburg and embarked in the leaf-tobacco business on his own account, buying and shipping that product extensively. In 1893 he formed a partnership with L. F. Parmerlee, which connection still continues. With others, he assisted in organizing the People's Banking Company in 1892, and has since filled the office of vice-president. He is still interested in the tobacco trade, and is carrying on an extensive business along that line. He furnishes employment to forty people, and in 1899 paid out nine thousand dollars for labor alone. That year he handled two thousand cases of tobacco, the second largest amount handled by any firm in the county, and now has sixty thousand dollars' worth of tobacco on hands in his warehouse. His plant is heated by steam and in every respect is a first-class establishment of its kind. Mr. Smith is one of the directors of the Miami Leaf Tobacco Association, with headquarters in Dayton.

On the 23d of September, 1874, in Lewisburg, Mr. Smith was united in marriage with Miss Anna M. Ruff, who was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and came to Lewisburg with her parents when young. By this union has been born one daughter, Pearl C., at home.

Mr. Smith has taken all of the degrees in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows; has filled all the chairs in the local lodge and encampment, and has represented the lodges of Preble and Darke counties in the grand lodge of the state. Politically he is a staunch Republican, and has taken an active and prominent part in public affairs, serving as a member of the city council two terms and mayor of the village in 1899, but he resigned the latter office before his term

expired. His time is wholly taken up with his extensive business interests. He is energetic, prompt and notably reliable in all transactions, and has the entire confidence and respect of his fellow citizens.

NELSON I. SNYDER.

Practical industry wisely and vigorously applied never fails of success; it carries a man onward and upward, brings out his individual character and acts as a powerful stimulus to the efforts of others. The greatest results in life are usually attained by simple means and the exercise of the ordinary qualities of common sense and perseverance. The every-day life, with its cares, necessities and duties, affords ample opportunities for acquiring experience of the best kind, and its most beaten paths provide a true worker with abundant scope for effort and self-improvement.

It is along such lines that Mr. Snyder has won success. He began life amid unfavorable circumstances on an Ohio farm, his birth having occurred in Warren county, four miles east of Morrow, March 13, 1861. He is a son of Philip A. and Barbara E. Snyder, early settlers of Warren county. At the age of five years Nelson Snyder lost his hearing by an attack of spotted fever, and in 1870 he entered the Ohio school for the deaf. While pursuing his education he worked for the Chronicle office at the school, from 1874 to 1879, and was then graduated. On the completion of his education he joined his parents in Blanchester, to which place they had removed from Warren county, but in the following autumn he went to South Charleston, Ohio, securing a situation in the Republican office, where he was employed until the summer of 1880. Returning then

to Blanchester, he obtained a position as a compositor in the Press office, serving in this capacity until the spring of 1881, when the plant was sold, and with the change in ownership the name of the paper became the Star.

In the winter of 1882 Mr. Snyder, having saved some capital from his earnings, purchased a small grocery, placing a younger brother in charge, while he continued to work at the case in the Star office. The grocery business, however, did not prove a profitable investment and he lost all that he had saved. He continued to work in the Star office until the spring of 1888, when he voluntarily severed his connection with the paper and went to Cincinnati to secure wider fields. Upon his arrival in that city he secured a position in the first printing office in which he made application—the American Israelite—whose editor was the late venerable Rabbi Isaac Wise. Mr. Snyder worked on that paper until the following November, when he received a letter from Blanchester containing the proposition to sell the Star office. This he accepted and returning to his old home he immediately took charge of the paper, with his brother, Warren K., as a partner. The lease expired the following November, and a clause in the article of agreement between the proprietor of the Star outfit and Mr. Snyder and his brother, giving to our subject the first privilege of purchase, was not taken advantage of. The brothers had made this a profitable investment, but the owner asked an exorbitant sum for the plant and they refused to purchase at that price. The outfit was then sold to A. C. Bell, and Mr. Snyder remained in his employ, continuing in the Star office until the great conflagration had visited Blanchester, in the fall of 1895,

sweeping away almost the entire business portion of the town, including the Star office, which was totally destroyed.

On the 2d of September, 1891, Mr. Snyder went to West Alexandria, Preble county, and the next day, accompanied by Miss Hallie N. Holland, made his way to Cincinnati, where, at the Palace Hotel, they were married by the late Rev. Benjamin Talbot. The lady is a daughter of Mrs. Julia A. Holland, who for a period of sixteen years was the postmistress of West Alexandria, succeeding her father, Mahlon Karn, in that position. She was removed in 1884, by President Cleveland. Her husband, John Q. Holland, had been killed in the civil war. Mr. and Mrs. Snyder began their domestic life in Blanchester, and there, on the 23d of February, 1894, a daughter (Carolyn) was born to them.

In the fall of 1897 our subject removed with his little family to West Alexandria and in connection with M. W. Griswold determined to establish a new paper. On the 3d of March, 1898, the Twin Valley Echo made its first appearance and was accorded a flattering reception. Their most sanguine expectations for the success of this undertaking has been more than fully realized. The journal is a six-column, eight-page weekly, and is a credit to the city, where it ranks with the best papers in this section of the state, both in workmanship and in the dissemination of news. It is neat in appearance and is an extremely enterprising journal, well conducted and worthy of a very liberal patronage. Mr. Snyder indeed deserves great credit for his success in life. Not only was he forced to start out for himself empty-handed, but was handicapped by an affliction. The elemental strength of his character, however, was early manifest, and he has

steadily progressed until he is now numbered among the substantial residents of his adopted city.

WILLIAM H. H. B. MINOR.

Dr. William Henry Harrison Brice Minor was born in Warren county, Ohio, on the 5th day of October, 1812, the fourth child and second son of Eli W. and Dorcas A. Minor, who were natives of Greene county, Pennsylvania, and emigrated to this state in the year 1810. Dr. Minor held his ancestry in great esteem and delighted to study the genealogy of his family, which he could trace back nearly three hundred years. His family were of English origin, and the ancestor of the Minor family in the United

259 States, Thomas Miner (e, not o), was born in England in the year 1608, whence he emigrated to this country in the year 1634. He had eight sons, and the youngest, Stephen Minor (who changed the spelling of the name from Miner to Minor), was the great-grandfather of the subject of this sketch. It was to him that the Minor manor in Virginia was granted by the English crown. He settled near Winchester, Virginia, a portion of which town was built on the manor. Stephen Minor was married to Athelia Updike, and his fifth son was Judge John Minor, born at Winchester, January 5, 1747. John Minor married Cassandra Williams, February, 1776. Miss Williams was a sister to General Otho Williams, who commanded General Greene's rear guards in his famous retreat in the Carolinas in the Revolutionary war, and her brother, Eli Williams, was one of the commissioners who laid out the national road from Baltimore to Cumberland and in connection with Ellicott furnished supplies for General Anthony

Wayne's army in the Indian war on the Maumee. Judge John Minor, the grandfather, was an officer in the Revolutionary army and also for many years an associate judge of Greene county, Pennsylvania. He died at the ripe old age of eighty-nine.

His son, Eli, the father of our subject, was born in Greene county, Pennsylvania, January 22, 1784, and married Dorcas A. Brice, in January, 1802, and brought his family to Ohio, in 1810. After having lived some eight years in Warren county he removed to Preble county and settled in the vicinity of Eaton. He possessed great energy and physical strength, and being also endowed with a happy, jovial nature, he participated with equal pleasure in both the labors and the sports of pioneer life. He was an intimate friend of the late Hon. Thomas Corwin, the two having served together as "wagon boys" in the war of 1812, carrying provisions to General Harrison's army.

After living for some five or six years in Preble county, he removed to Cincinnati and resided there until the year 1830, when he returned to Greene county, Pennsylvania, to the neighborhood where he was born and raised. Mr. Minor died in the year 1849, a very generally respected man. His wife was a sister of Dr. John Brice, who erected the third pioneer cabin in Newark, Ohio, and her nephew, Benjamin Brice, is on the retired list as the paymaster-general of the United States army.

In boyhood William Minor was of slender form and rather delicate constitution, although energetic, active and vivacious, and was an adept in all innocent sports and amusements. Reared as he was under the restricted circumstances and disadvantages of a frontier life, at a time when schools and means of education were both expensive

and difficult of access, his school days were necessarily few and limited, and his literary attainments were not of a very high order. Being naturally a close observer and possessed of keen perception and ambitious to excel, he made the best use of the limited opportunities that happened in his way. He, however, succeeded in gathering a broad stock of useful information, which served as the basis of a well informed and useful life. Very soon after the return of the family to Pennsylvania young William was apprenticed to the blacksmithing trade, and on the completion of his apprenticeship he returned to Preble county, Ohio, and established himself in business in Eaton, first in partnership with Joseph Wasson, who was the first blacksmith that located in Eaton, and later in his own shop. Ambitious to excel in all he undertook, he very soon acquired the reputation of being one of the best artificers in his craft in the country. Consequently his labors to meet all the requirements of his customers overtaxed his strength, and he was compelled, on account of ill health, to relinquish the business of blacksmithing in the year 1835. He then turned his attention to medicine, and after studying for three years under the preceptorship of his brother-in-law, Dr. Jessy Paramour, he commenced practicing as a physician in Eaton, in the year 1838. In his new profession, as in all else that he undertook, his aim was to attain the highest degree of excellence. Having a comprehensive intellect, retentive memory, ready perception and untiring industry, he very soon stood in the front rank among his contemporaries. He continued in the practice of medicine in this place about twelve years, a part of which time he was in partnership with Dr. Paramour, a part of the time with

Dr. Crume and the remainder of the time alone. Dr. Minor was a second time brought to face the fact that his health would not permit him to endure the hardships and exposures incident to a country practice, and in the year 1851 he relinquished the practice of his profession. He later engaged in mercantile business—first in the dry-goods trade and then in groceries and drugs. In the year of 1871 he retired from all active business pursuits and devoted his time to the care of his property, which industry and integrity and business sagacity had enabled him to accumulate.

On July 11, 1839, he married Miss Lavina C. Hollady, a daughter of James Hollady, of Preble county, and a granddaughter, on her mother's side, of William Bruce, the original proprietor of the site on which Eaton now stands. A son and three daughters were the fruits of this union. Only the two younger daughters are now living—the older, Mrs. Mary E. Farr, and the younger, Mrs. Nettie F. Lovette.

Dr. Minor may be truly said to have been a self-made man. Reared in comparative poverty and obscurity, under the most limited educational facilities, and without influential friends in early life to advance his interests, by his own unaided, but indomitable energy and perseverance, he attained an unusual competency for his advanced age, and an influential standing in the community in which he lived. His habits from youth to old age were the very best. Dr. Minor was a gentleman of superior judgment, great caution and remarkable thoroughness in all that he did. Modest and unassuming, he was positive in his convictions and he conscientiously carried them out, impelled by that highest motive, he "felt that it was right to do so." Integrity,

fidelity and patriotism were the ruling principles of his life. Scrupulously prompt to fulfill all his own obligations and engagements, he expected and exacted a like promptness from others. Even tempered and mentally well balanced, always hopeful and possessed of great powers of self-control, he was enabled to pass through life with as little of the asperities incident to human experience as falls to the lot of most men. His was a character noble in its purpose and true to itself, one which was an ornament to the community in which he lived and an inspiration to others. Such men live to the benefit of the generations that follow them.

In March, 1846, Dr. Minor affiliated himself with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, of which he continued a worthy and honored member during the remainder of his life. He died on the 12th day of August, 1880, having reached the age of sixty-seven years, ten months and six days. He had never professed or formed any church relations, but throughout his life he ever honored and relied on the impartial goodness of the Infinite Being, the Father of all.

J. E. CAVEY, M. D.

In the subject of this review we have one who has attained distinction in the line of his profession, who has been an earnest and discriminating student and who holds a position of due relative precedence among the medical practitioners of West Alexandria. He has gained a reputation which many an older member of the fraternity might well envy, and a very liberal patronage is accorded him by reason of his pronounced

skill and ability. He was born in Steubenville, Ohio, January 28, 1871, his parents being Alfred B. and Martha J. (Ewing) Cavey. His father, a native of Maryland, was born in 1829, and in that state he spent the days of his childhood and youth, his education being obtained in the common schools. On attaining his majority he left home and crossed the mountains to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, where he was engaged in railroad business. Later he was the superintendent of construction in the building of the Panhandle system from Pittsburgh to Steubenville, and on the completion of the road he remained in the employ of the company in one or another important capacity until 1885. On severing his connection therewith he accepted the position of superintendent of construction of the portion of the Cincinnati branch of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad between Ashland and Augusta. That work occupied his time and attention for two and a half years, after which he entered the service of the Ohio & Mississippi Railroad Company, as assistant superintendent of the Springfield division, filling that position most creditably until 1897, when he retired from active business life. Throughout his connection with the Ohio & Mississippi road and up to the present time he has made his home in Riverton, Kentucky, and is regarded as one of the highly esteemed residents of that city. His wife was born in Allegheny county, Pennsylvania, in 1837, and was a representative of an old and honored family of the state. Many of its members have been prominent in the various walks of life, and they thereby contributed to the development and material welfare of the communities with which they have been connected. Alfred and Martha Cavey had two children: Maud E.,

who is now the wife of Grant S. Mitchell, of Riverton, Kentucky; and J. E.

The latter spent his boyhood and youth at home, and in the common schools acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by a course in the Orchard City Business College at Flora, Illinois. On leaving that institution he went to Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, to visit an uncle, and while there was offered a position in his uncle's store, so that his residence in the Keystone state was continued for a year and a half. However, prior to this time he had determined to adopt the practice of medicine as a life work, and this led him to sever his connection with mercantile interests. While clerking, however, he began reading, and in 1892 he took a trip to the west, spending six months in that section of the country. He was in Colorado most of the time and then returned to Flora, Illinois, where his parents were then residing. In Flora he continued his medical studies in the office and under the direction of Dr. L. E. Elrod, and in 1894 matriculated in the Miami Medical College, of Cincinnati, at which he was graduated with high honors as a member of the class of 1897. In June of the same year he located in West Alexandria and within a few months he found himself in control of a large and constantly increasing patronage. He has been a close and thorough student of his profession and his medical knowledge is comprehensive and accurate. He continues his reading, so that he keeps constantly in touch with the progress that is made in the science of medicine, and is also conversant with the different theories and data advanced by the members of the Ohio State Medical Society, the American Medical Society and the Preble County Medical Society, with all of which

he holds membership relations. He is a member of the town board of health and is one of the most progressive and enterprising citizens of Preble county.

The Doctor was united in marriage to Miss Ardelle Wolfrey, the wedding being celebrated December 6, 1898. The lady is native of West Alexandria and a daughter of Reuben T. Wolfrey, who is connected with the West Alexandria water works. Dr. Cavey is a young man of model habits, of affable manner and uniform courtesy, and these qualities, taken in connection with his marked ability, have gained for him a leading place in the ranks of the medical fraternity and made him popular as a citizen.

GEORGE W. DEEM.

In past ages the history of a country was the record of wars and conquests; to-day it is the record of commercial activity, and those whose names are foremost in its annals are the leaders in business circles. The conquests now made are those of mind over matter, not of man over man, and the victor is he who can successfully establish, control and operate extensive commercial interests. George W. Deem is one of the strong and influential men whose lives have become an essential part of the history of Eaton and of Ohio. Tireless energy, keen perception, honesty of purpose, genius for devising and executing the right thing at the right time, joined to every-day common sense, guided by great will power, are the chief characteristics of the man. He is now connected with many leading enterprises of Eaton, and his efforts have brought to him gratifying success.

He was born near the city which is now his home, June 15, 1841. His father,



Geo. W. Deen

Joseph Deem, was a native of Licking River, Kentucky, and the grandfather of our subject was one of the first settlers of Butler county, Ohio, taking up his residence near Middletown, in 1810, when Joseph was only ten years of age. The latter was reared amid the wild scenes of the frontier and in 1836 came to Preble county. He was a farmer by occupation, and for a number of years served as the director of the poor-house. In his business affairs he was signally successful, becoming the possessor of a comfortable competency. An earnest Christian gentleman, he held membership in the Methodist Episcopal church and in his life exemplified his belief. His death occurred in 1870. He married Miss Francis Tarr, a representative of an old family of Greencastle, Indiana, and she was called to her final rest on the 17th of January, 1871. They had nine children, of whom six are living, namely: William T., a resident of Eaton; Buckner Deem, formerly of Preble county; Mary Ann, the widow of Andrew Fall and a resident of Indiana; John T., of Eaton; Francis M., who also is residing in this city, and George W. The deceased are: Maria, married Moses Surface; Jane, who married Milton Specht, and James K. Deem.

George W. Deem was reared upon his father's farm, early becoming familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He assisted in the work of field and meadow during the summer months and in the winter season pursued his education in the common schools. He continued farming until 1868, when he began buying and selling stock. In 1871 he embarked in the lumber business, and recently he has given his attention almost exclusively to the handling of hard wood lumber, buying and selling walnut, ash, poplar and quarter-

sawed oak. He is an excellent judge of lumber; and the good quality which he carries, together with his honorable dealing and courteous treatment, has secured to him a very liberal patronage. He is a man of resourceful business ability whose efforts have by no means been limited to one line, and in his various undertakings he has met with the creditable success that has materially increased his income. He is interested in a brick-yard, being one of the stockholders of the Eaton Brick Company, in which industry he is associated with Judge Fisher, Fred Becker and Dr. Lovette. For the past six years he has been a director of the Eaton Banking Company and is also identified with the agricultural interests of the county, owning and operating forty acres of land and also superintending the cultivation of a farm of sixty acres which belongs to his daughter. Although his business interests are extensive and varied, he controls each with marked success, and his worth as a business man is widely acknowledged.

Mr. Deem has been twice married. In 1872 he wedded Fannie B. Bruce, who died January 26, 1892. For fifteen years she had been an invalid, and with her husband had traveled throughout the United States in search of health. She possessed many excellent characteristics and admirable qualities and her loss was deeply mourned by her friends. She left one child, Susan B., who is now the wife of C. A. Kelly, of Winchester, Indiana. For his second wife Mr. Deem wedded Mrs. Mary E. Deem, the widow of his brother, James K. Deem, who died January 7, 1891. Their wedding was celebrated December 29, 1898. Mrs. Deem is a consistent and valued member of the Methodist Episcopal church, and both she and her husband contribute liberally to its

support. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and for six years has been its treasurer. He, however, withholds his support from no movement or measure which he believes will prove of benefit in advancing the moral interests of his community. For many years he has been an exemplary member of Bolivar Lodge, No. 82, A. F. & A. M., and in his life exemplifies the beneficent teachings of the fraternity. He finds his chief source of recreation and pleasure in hunting and is an excellent shot. In 1893 he visited Wisconsin and killed the first two deer he ever saw in the woods. With several friends he each year takes a hunting trip, finding great enjoyment in traveling through the forests with his gun. In business circles he sustains an unassailable reputation and is justly and uniformly regarded as one of the most prominent and reliable business men of Eaton. His success in life may be ascribed to positive and determined pursuit of business and to the fact that he is a man of honesty and integrity. While he is unusually liberal in support of all church work within the pale of his own religious creed, he is too fair-minded to confine his sympathies or charities within the boundary lines of tenet or creed, and any deserving call for aid outside of his church meets with equally ready response.

JAMES K. DEEM.

Throughout his life James K. Deem was identified with the agricultural interests of Eaton county, and he possessed those sterling traits of character, reliability, honesty and worth so often found in men whose lives are close to nature. He was born in this county, August 2, 1844, and was reared

upon the farm. At an early age he went into the fields where he followed the plow and assisted in the planting, continuing his work until harvests were garnered in the autumn. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges and he was ever a warm friend of the public-school system. He served as a director for a number of years and always did everything in his power to promote the cause of education and make it more effective that the young might be well prepared for the practical and responsible duties of life. Throughout his business career he carried on agricultural pursuits, and his methods of farming were practical and progressive. His fields were ever well tilled and the improvements upon his place were kept in good repair. His enterprise and labors brought to him creditable success, and in all business transactions his word was as good as his bond. He often said a good name was rather to be chosen than great riches, and he cared much more for the merited respect of his fellow men than for the financial reward which he might secure from his labor. His indeed was an upright life, well worthy of emulation.

On the 24th of December, 1868, Mr. Deem was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Bruce, and together they lived happily until death separated them, on the 7th of January, 1891. One son was born to them, Charles H., who is living near Eaton. Several years after the death of her first husband Mrs. Deem became the wife of his brother, George W. Deem.

FRANK G. SHUEY.

The inevitable law of destiny accords to tireless energy and industry a successful career, and in no field of endeavor is there

greater opportunity for advancement than in that of the law—a profession in which votaries must, if successful, be endowed with native talent, sterling rectitude of character and singleness of purpose, while equally important concomitants are close study, careful appreciation and broad general knowledge, in addition to that of a more purely technical order. Of the legal profession Frank G. Shuey is a worthy representative and enjoys a distinctly representative clientele at Camden.

He was born on the 19th of August, 1866, in Germantown, Ohio. His father, Michael Shuey, was a native of the same locality, born September 22, 1822, and is now living a retired life in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. A representative of an old Virginian family, his father, Lewis Shuey, was born in that state, about 1790, and, emigrating westward, took up his abode in Germantown, Ohio, where his death occurred about 1873. He was a miller, farmer and merchant and also conducted a distillery on his farm. His busy and useful life brought to him good financial returns. He was married when about seventeen years of age, and, coming to Ohio, entered land from the government along Big Twin creek. Later he made other purchases and added to his property from time to time, becoming an extensive land owner. He also did a large and successful mercantile business and at his death left a comfortable estate. He had four sons: Lewis and Philip, both of whom died in Germantown; Jacob, who was engaged in the milling business and died in Miamisburg, Ohio; and Michael, who is the last survivor of the family. These uncles of our subject were all married and had large families, and all learned and followed the milling business

to some extent. The grandfather was buried at Germantown, where for many years he had been an important factor in public affairs.

Michael Shuey was reared in the Buckeye state, and when he had attained to years of maturity he chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Mary H. Ireland, who was born in Brooklyn, New York, in 1839, a daughter of Tyndal Ireland, whose wife bore the maiden name of McBridle. They had a considerable number of children, their daughter, Mary, being one of the older. Mr. and Mrs. Shuey were married in Ohio, about 1864. The father had been previously married, his first wife having been Miss McGriff, and their children were: Lewis, John, Kittie, Erastus, Jesse, Odlin, Charles and Harrison. All have been married, with the exception of the daughter, whose home is with her father. By the second marriage there were six children: Minnie, the wife of Samuel Sowers, of St. Mary's, Ohio; Frank G.; Raymond, a resident of Dayton, Ohio; Firman, who was drowned at the age of six years; Lottie, a young lady at home; and Stanley, a teacher in Gratis township. All of the children were reared in the house in which Michael Shuey and his wife still make their home. It is situated upon a valuable farm of one hundred and sixty acres, upon which is also a mill property, the mill being located just across the street from the dwelling. Mr. Shuey gave to his family liberal educational advantages, some of them attending college. Lewis received superior intellectual training and is now a pharmacist of Dayton.

Having attended the common schools, Frank G. Shuey, of this review, entered the high school of Germantown, in which he

was graduated at the age of eighteen. The following year he was graduated in the Twin Valley College, being one of the first to complete the course in that institution. Desiring to enter professional life, he prepared for the bar as a student in the Cincinnati Law School, in which he was graduated in 1895, after which he was licensed to practice at Columbus, Ohio. He at once opened an office in Camden, purchasing the law library and succeeding to the practice of J. M. Shafer. He also taught school for several years in Camden and was superintendent of the city schools here for three years, after which he spent one year in a similar capacity in Miamisburg. His entire time and attention, however, are now given to his chosen profession and he practices in all the courts of the county, doing a particularly large probate business. His knowledge of law is accurate and comprehensive and he prepares his cases with great thoroughness and precision, thus being able to present his cause with strength and ability before court or jury.

On the 29th of December, 1891, Mr. Shuey was happily married to Miss Lora Ferguson, a daughter of Dr. F. S. Ferguson, a prominent practicing physician of Camden. Her father was born in Oxford, Ohio, November 14, 1834, and is a son of John Ferguson, whose birth occurred in Campbelltown, Scotland, on the 8th of April, 1810. The latter served a seven-years apprenticeship to the tinner's and plumber's trades, and with six companions came to America when a young man, crossing the Atlantic in 1832. They soon separated after reaching the new world, but fifty years later five of the number met. A short time before his emigration John Ferguson married Catherine McGregor. For a year they resided in

Cincinnati, thence removed to Oxford, Ohio, where Mr. Ferguson prospered in his undertakings, and where they reared a family of seven children, only two of whom are now living: Christina, the widow of George B. Morris, of Oxford; and Dr. Ferguson. The parents were Scotch Presbyterians in their religious faith, and the father was a prominent Knight Templar Mason. The mother died at the age of fifty-seven and he was again married, his second union being with Isabel McMillan, of Glasgow, Scotland, by whom he had one son, Bruce Ferguson, now a student in the Miami University, at Oxford.

Dr. Ferguson, the father of Mrs. Shuey, attended the public schools of Oxford and was graduated in the Miami University with the class of 1857. He began reading medicine in his native town, graduated in the Ohio Medical College in 1861, and the same year began practice in Somerville, Ohio, where he remained until May, 1864, when he was appointed assistant surgeon of the One Hundred and Sixty-seventh Ohio Infantry, continuing in the service until September of that year. He was then appointed acting assistant surgeon in the United States army and assigned to duty in West Virginia. After being mustered out he was in the hospital service at Madison, Indiana, until the close of the war. He then came to Camden, where he practiced medicine in partnership with Dr. L. D. Dunham for two years, and then became his partner's successor. Next he was alone until 1884, when he formed a partnership with Dr. D. W. McQueen, which relation was maintained until November, 1899.

He was married February 14, 1867, to Sarah, a daughter of J. H. and Henrietta

(George) Bohn. They have two children, Lora B., now Mrs. Shuey; and John, at home. The mother died December 12, 1891, at the age of forty-eight years, respected by all who knew her. The Doctor is a member of the Odd Fellows order and is a past grand. He also belongs to the Grand Army of the Republic, is a Republican in politics and served for three years as pension examiner under President Harrison, and was again appointed to that position in October, 1899, by President McKinley. He has served as a member of the common council and of the school board, and was reared in the Presbyterian church, of which he has been a trustee for twenty-five years. He is a charter member and for the past twelve years has been the president of the Camden Building & Loan Association. He belongs to the Preble County and the Union District Medical Societies and is a leading representative of the medical fraternity in this part of the county. In 1872 he erected a very pleasant and commodious residence in Camden, and since his wife's death his daughter, Mrs. Shuey, has had charge of his home. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Shuey have been born one son, Arthur Ferguson, a bright little lad of seven summers, whose birth occurred October 16, 1892.

Mr. Shuey is a very prominent Mason and is one of the six thirty-second-degree Masons in Preble county. He served as the master of Camden Lodge, No. 259, F. & A. M., for two years, belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity, of Eaton, is a member of the Odd Fellows society and a past grand of the encampment. He likewise holds membership with the Foresters. In politics he is a staunch and earnest Republican and is serving his fourth year as township clerk, to which position he was first ap-

pointed and afterward elected. He has also been a member of the board of deputy supervisors for three years. In religious faith he is connected with the Reformed church of Miamisburg, of which his father is also a member. He holds a state teacher's certificate, passing the examination in December, 1890. A man of scholarly attainments and strong individuality, he has not only a large law library, but is also the possessor of a very large private library, containing many of the leading works of fiction, history and science. Genial and courteous in manner and kindly in disposition, he occupies a leading place in the public regard, and he and his estimable wife enjoy the hospitality of the best homes in Camden and the surrounding country.

HENRY PUNDT.

For over thirty years this gentleman was actively identified with the agricultural interests of Preble county, and was one of its honored and highly esteemed citizens. His possessions were all acquired through his own efforts, and as the result of his consecutive endeavor he won a place among the substantial men of his community.

Mr. PunDT was born in Germany, September 5, 1835, and was eighteen years of age at the time of his emigration to America, the voyage being made on a sailing vessel and lasting forty-six days. He located at once in West Alexandria, Preble county, Ohio, and found work by the month in the employ of Dr. Nesbet, of that village, with whom he remained many years. Subsequently he was employed on the farm of John Leshner for a time. After his marriage he settled in Twin township, where he operated rented land for eleven years, and then

purchased the farm in Harrison township, where his widow now resides. He made many improvements upon the place and successfully engaged in general farming and stock raising throughout life. He also dealt in stock and while engaged in that business became widely known all over the county. He would buy almost anything which he believed he could dispose of at an advantage. He was upright and honorable in all his dealings, and in business transactions his word was considered as good as his bond.

In 1862 Mr. Pundt was united in marriage with Miss Elizabeth Ryder, who was born October 7, 1842, a mile and a half south of West Alexandria in Twin township, Preble county, and in both ancestral lines is of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. Her father, John Ryder, a native of Pennsylvania, came to this county at an early day and became a prominent farmer of Twin township, where he died, at the age of seventy-five years. Her mother, who bore the maiden name of Hannah Gebhart, was born in Miamisburg, Ohio, and died in her eighty-third year. Mrs. Pundt was the fourth in order of birth in their family of ten children, five sons and five daughters, all born in Preble county, and she was reared in Twin township, her education being obtained in its district schools.

To our subject and his wife were born seven children, two sons and five daughters, namely: Mary, now the wife of Henry Klusman, of Kansas, by whom she has one child living, Nellie; Katie, who married Henry Sollers, now of Kansas, and has two daughters—Edra and Elsa; Clara, the wife of Homer Brown, of Darke county, Ohio, by whom she has two sons—Victor and Ralph; Hannah, the wife of Frank Ramsey, of Lewisburg, this county, by whom she

has one son—Robert; and Jacob, who assists in the operation of the home farm; and a son and daughter died in childhood.

On reaching Preble county Mr. Pundt had but twenty-five dollars with which to begin life in the new world, but being industrious, economical and ambitious, he steadily prospered in his undertakings and was able to leave his family in comfortable circumstances. His widow still owns the home farm of one hundred and sixty-seven acres of land on section 22, Harrison township, and has displayed good business and executive ability in its management. Mr. Pundt died March 4, 1884, honored and respected by all who knew him, and the community realized that it had lost one of its valued and useful citizens. In politics he was a Democrat and in religious belief a Lutheran. He held office in his church and took quite a prominent part in religious work. His family is one of prominence in the community where they reside.

JAMES SAYLER.

One of the prominent residents of Eaton is James Sayler, who is now engaged in the real estate and loan business. He is a native of Preble county, his birth having occurred in Winchester, on the 15th of April, 1830. His father, Christian Sayler, was born in Franklin county, Virginia, on the 4th of January, 1804, and was a son of Martin Sayler, who was born in Maryland, November 6, 1775. The ancestry of the family can be traced still farther back through several generations to Daniel Sayler, who was the founder of the family in America. A native of Switzerland, he was born January 15, 1708, and leaving the land of the Alps he crossed the Atlantic to

the new world in 1725. For some time he was a resident of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, but his last days were passed in Frederick county, Maryland, where he died in 1778. His son, Christian Sayler, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and in Frederick county, Maryland, he died, in 1797. He was the great-grandfather of our subject and the father of Martin Sayler, who established the family in Preble county. He removed from Maryland to Ohio in 1809 and was one of the three who laid out the town of Winchester, in 1817. Very prominent in public affairs, he left the impress of his individuality upon the county and was an active factor in advancing its interests along many lines. He enjoyed a most enviable reputation in his community as a millwright and was somewhat skilled as a surgeon. He was frequently solicited to become a candidate for office on account of his recognized ability and worth, but always declined the honors thus proffered him. He was a man of broad mind, well versed in the Bible, and was well known as a humorist—a quality which rendered him an entertaining companion.

Christian Sayler came to Preble county with his parents in the early part of the century and as a life work he chose the practice of medicine, beginning preparation for that calling under the direction of Dr. Samuel Nixon. Later he attended lectures at the Ohio Medical College, of Cincinnati, and when thorough and comprehensive study had well qualified him for the profession, he opened an office in Winchester, where he remained during his life. He won distinctive preferment as a leading physician, and had a very large practice, which brought to him a handsome competence. He was a man of fine appearance, rather

quiet and reserved in manner, possessing a strong intellect. He was a deep thinker, and justly ranked among the most prominent citizens of his community.

James Sayler, whose name introduces this review, acquired his literary education in the common schools, and afterward filled the position of superintendent of the public schools of Winchester. Political questions awakening his deep interest, he has given close and earnest thought to the issues before the public, and was early recognized as one of the leading members of the Republican party in his community. In 1867 he was elected to represent Preble county in the state legislature, and was re-elected in 1869. In 1872 he was elected state senator for Preble and Montgomery counties, and while in the upper house he served on the finance committee and was the chairman of the committee on common schools and school lands in the lower house. He championed several measures which time has proved to be of value. In 1881 he removed to Eaton, where he has since engaged in the real estate and loan business. In all matters of public trust his reputation is unassailable, and his integrity above question.

On the 15th of March, 1855, Mr. Sayler was united in marriage to Miss Sarah E. Kesling, a daughter of William Kesling, of Springboro, Ohio. Her great-grandfather was a soldier in the Revolutionary war, enlisting from Rockingham county, Virginia. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Sayler were born four children: Marcus, who is engaged in the practice of medicine in Socorro, New Mexico; Walter, an ex-member of the legislature and a practicing attorney of Chicago; Carl E., who is engaged in the real estate business in Chicago, and James L., who is practicing law in Eaton.

Mr. Sayler and his family attend the Christian church and take a very active part in the work of the church. His public and private career are alike above reproach, and in all life's relations he has been true and faithful to the trust reposed in him.

JOHN E. ANDERSON.

John Elliott Anderson is a well known farmer of Somers township, Preble county. He was born in Bethany, Butler county, Ohio, on the 27th of June, 1845. His father, William Anderson, was born in Liberty township, Butler county, on the 10th of February, 1816, and was a son of John Anderson, whose birth occurred in Kent county, Delaware. The grandfather was married in Butler county, Ohio, about the year 1811, to Miss Maria Hagerman of New Jersey, and they became the parents of ten children, one of whom died in infancy, while two others died at the age of seven and nine years respectively. Four sons and a daughter reached years of maturity. The grandfather came to Ohio in 1809 and since that time the representatives of the family have been identified with the interests of the Buckeye state. He was an able farmer but a modest and unassuming man who was content to perform his duty to the best of his ability. He died about 1856, at the age of seventy years, and his widow passed away some four years later. Two of the sons of this family are still living—Aaron and Simon—both residents of Piqua, Ohio.

William Anderson, the father of our subject, was reared in the county of his nativity and married Maria Elliott, who was born in Liberty township, Butler county, in October, 1817. Their wedding was celebrated February 6, 1839, and they spent

their lives there. The father was a pioneer carpenter and builder, working at the trade at the time when he hewed his own timber and made his own doors and sash. In his later years he owned and resided on a farm. In his political views he was a Democrat and held a number of local offices, including that of township trustee, in which he served for many years in a very creditable manner. In the family of Mr. and Mrs. Anderson were five children, four of whom are yet living, Elmore T., a farmer of Butler county, Ohio, who is married and has one son; John Elliott, of this review; William E., a farmer who also lives in Butler county, Ohio, and is married and has a daughter, and Caroline, the widow of Lewis McLean, of Warren county, Ohio.

Upon the home farm John Elliott Anderson spent the days of his boyhood and youth and in the district schools of the neighborhood he acquired his education. At the age of seventeen he secured a clerkship in the village store at Bethany, remaining there for four years as a most trusted employe. He afterward engaged in clerking for one year in Middletown and subsequently engaged in merchandising on his own account in Bethany and later in Hamilton, being thus engaged for eight years. About a quarter of a century ago, however, in September, 1875, he came to his present farm in Somers township, Preble county. It is known as the old Richard Pottinger farm. It comprises one hundred and thirty-four acres of rich and arable land, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation, yielding to the owner a golden tribute in return for the care and cultivation he bestows upon it. He follows progressive methods in his farming operations and in his business transactions is strictly reliable and upright.

On the 22d of April, 1868, Mr. Anderson was married to Miss Sally Maria Murphy, a daughter of Peter and Cyrena (Van Gordon) Murphy. Her parents are now deceased. They were native farming people of Liberty township, Butler county, Ohio, and the father was a prominent and influential citizen who owned considerable property there. He served as a sheriff for four years and was also a state senator for two terms. A recognized leader of public thought and movement, he exercised a strong influence over affairs of public moment and left the impress of his individuality upon the movements and measures which affected the general good. His last years were spent in Hamilton, where he served as the president of the Miami Valley Bank, of which he was one of the founders. His wife died August 2, 1893, at the age of seventy-one years, and he was called to his final rest on the 1st of April, 1896, at the age of seventy-five. They reared four sons and two daughters and also lost two children. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Anderson have been born four children: Charles M., the secretary and treasurer of the Columbia Carriage Company, at Hamilton, Ohio, and is a progressive and enterprising business man, and married Miss Ada Marsh; Edgar Percy, who died in infancy; Carrie Cyrena, who is the wife of George H. Harkrader, an artist, and Nellie May, who is at home. She is employed as a stenographer in the office of her uncle, who was an ex-probate judge of Hamilton.

Mr. Anderson is a charter member of the Knights of Pythias lodge of Camden, has filled all of its offices and has served as one of its trustees. In politics he is a Democrat and has served for two terms as township trustee, at which time he gained a large

Republican following, else he could not have been elected, for his party is in the minority in this locality. He proved a very capable official and is always true to every trust reposed in him. He has been a member of the County Agricultural Society for fourteen years, was its president for three years, and in 1895 became a member of the Wayne Farmers' Club, of which he was the president from 1896 until 1898. He was also one of the organizers and the first president of the Farmers' Institute of South Preble county. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. For the past ten years Mr. Anderson has made a specialty of dairy farming, shipping his products to Cincinnati. He has prosecuted his business affairs with diligence and energy and his labors have been crowned with a merited degree of success. He has overcome all the obstacles in his path by determined effort and perseverance and has steadily worked his way upward until he now occupies a leading position as a representative of the agricultural interests of Preble county.

JOHN W. AMMERMAN.

The gentleman named above, now the postmaster at Eaton, was born on a farm in Dixon township, Preble county, Ohio, July 15, 1849. His parents were David and Anna (O'Neal) Ammerman. His father also was a native of Dixon township, and his mother of Cincinnati, Ohio. His paternal grandfather was born in Bourbon county, Kentucky, of German lineage, and came to Preble county in an early day, settling in Dixon township and remaining on the same farm throughout the remainder of his life, and was buried in the private burying grounds on the farm. He had two sons—

Philip and David; and three daughters—Nancy, Eliza and Margaret. David was the youngest of the children, and was the last to answer the summons of death. Farming was his occupation. During his active years in business affairs he resided in Preble county, but toward the close of his career he removed to Richmond, Indiana, where he died, in 1890, aged seventy-three years. About one year later his wife passed to her last reward. At the time of her death her home was with a daughter in New Paris, Ohio. She was a daughter of John O'Neal, a native of Ireland, who came from the Emerald Isle to the United States when a boy. On coming to this country Philadelphia became his home. Here he married and later he became a pioneer settler of Dixon township, already referred to, where he lived many years. At the time of his death he was making his home with a daughter in Muncie, Indiana. Unto the marriage of David and Anna Ammerman were born nine children, namely: Mary J., who died in early womanhood; Emma, who died in her youth; William M., of Eaton, who served as a private in the civil war as a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry and who for years has been an invalid from rheumatism; James P., of Indianapolis, Indiana; Simon E. and Albert, residents of Richmond, Indiana; Mrs. Margaret Harr, of Indianapolis; Mrs. Eliza Barnette, of New Paris, Ohio, and John W. Ammerman. The last named is familiarly known to the people of Preble county as Jack Ammerman, and of his career we now make brief mention.

Mr. Ammerman was reared on the farm on which he was born. He gained but a very limited education in his youth, for his educational privileges were not encouraging. His school days were few, but

lessons of industry and perseverance were well taught him in the duties and labors that fell to his lot as a farmer's son. He remained on the farm until he was twenty-one years of age. At that age he left the farm and took up the carpenter's trade, which was followed for about ten years. From 1872 to 1879 his home was in Muncie, Indiana, where he was engaged as a contractor and builder. In 1879 he was ill from typhoid fever, which was followed by a long and severe illness from rheumatism, disabling him from manual labors.

Returning to Preble county, he was residing at New Paris when in 1880 he was elected land appraiser for Jefferson township. This was the first public office held by Mr. Ammerman, and was the beginning of his public services and what has been an interesting and successful political career. In 1881 he was nominated and elected, by the Republican party, to the office of recorder for Preble county, and in that office his services were very satisfactory both to his political party and to the general public—so much so that in 1884 he was renominated by his party without opposition, and re-elected without opposition from the Democratic party. He held the office two terms of three years each, and gained for himself an excellent reputation as a public official.

Going to Chicago, Mr. Ammerman was for a brief period in the employ of the Pullman company, as a Pullman conductor. Later he went to western Kansas, where however, he remained but a short time, being compelled to leave the west on account of failing health. Returning to Eaton, his services were again called into public requisition by his election to the office of assessor for the west precinct of Washington township, an office to which no other Republican

had ever before been elected, such was the large Democratic majority in the precinct. To this office he was thrice elected. In the presidential campaign of 1896, Mr. Ammerman, as secretary of the Preble county Republican executive committee, bore an active part in the support of the Republican party, which party being successful, he became an applicant for the position of postmaster of Eaton. There were thirteen other applicants for the same position and the contest waxed warm. However, Mr. Ammerman was the successful applicant, and was given charge of the office as postmaster, August 1, 1898, and is its present incumbent.

Limited space forbids giving anything like a detailed account of Mr. Ammerman's political career, in which he never met with defeat. His faithfulness to duty, fidelity to political party and to friends always made sure his election. A man in politics is never without his political enemies. This has been true of Mr. Ammerman; but his friends have always been so numerous and faithful as to place victory within his reach.

MICHAEL COTTERMAN.

After a long and honorable career as a business man, Michael Cotterman is now living retired at his pleasant home in Lewisburg, surrounded by his family and a large circle of friends, who hold him in highest regard. He is a native of Ohio, born near Miamisburg, Montgomery county, February 13, 1821, and in both ancestral lines is of Pennsylvania Dutch extraction. His father, Michael Cotterman, Sr., was born September 2, 1782, in Berks county, Pennsylvania, of which state his father was also a native. The former removed to Montgomery county, Ohio, in 1805, and located upon a farm and

later in life lived some six or seven years in Preble county. He was living in Germantown, where he died September 11, 1877. In that county he married Eva Schupert, who also was born and reared in Berks county, Pennsylvania, and died at the age of fifty-six years. They were the parents of eleven children, ten of whom reached years of maturity, namely: Catherine, born April 22, 1807; Elizabeth, December 21, 1808; Margaret, February 11, 1810; John January 16, 1812; Sarah, December 19, 1813; Mary, October 7, 1815; Jonathan, September 11, 1817; Michael, February 13, 1821; Daniel, March 20, 1823; and Sidney, October 23, 1826. Mary and our subject are now the only survivors.

In the county of his nativity Michael Cotterman spent the first fifteen years of his life, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to this county, his education being obtained in the old-time subscription schools of both counties. When about nineteen years of age he started out in life for himself, and a year later commenced learning the carpenter's trade, serving a regular apprenticeship. Subsequently he engaged in contracting and building, and successfully followed that occupation for about forty years. In 1885 he started a saw mill, and practically retired from carpenter work. He has now laid aside all business cares, and expects to spend the remainder of his life in ease and quiet.

On the 19th of February, 1846, Mr. Cotterman was united in marriage with Miss Mary Elizabeth Hapner, who was born in Harrison township, this county, March 19, 1818, a daughter of Henry and Mary Elizabeth (Ott) Hapner, and granddaughter of Gasper and Mary Hapner. The grandfather was a native of Germany and one of

the early settlers of Virginia. His wife lived to the advanced age of one hundred and eight years, and died in Twin township, Preble county, Ohio. Mrs. Cotterman's father was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, September 17, 1771, and died April 1, 1855, while her mother was born November 1, 1778, and died November 2, 1861, both being over eighty-three years of age at the time of their deaths. They were pioneers of Preble county and highly respected by all who knew them. In their family were twelve children, all of whom grew to manhood or womanhood, and all married with one exception; but Mrs. Cotterman is the only one now living. In order of birth they were as follows: Polly, Abraham, William, Jacob, Katharine, George, Rebecca, Sarah, Mary Elizabeth, Henry, and Daniel and Michael, twins. Mrs. Cotterman was reared in this county, being educated in a neighboring school taught by her father at home.

Eight children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Cotterman. The eldest, a daughter, born January 5, 1847, died in infancy. Randolph, born December 3, 1847, died October 30, 1859. Almyra, born January 6, 1850, was married December 29, 1868, to Daniel Wikel, Jr. Mary Melissa, born April 19, 1852, and Isadora, born March 16, 1855, are at home. Oliver, born May 20, 1857, married Sarah E. Horne, and they now reside in Chicago. Ella Frances, born October 19, 1861, is deceased, and Caroline, born June 27, 1864, is the wife of Rev. Samuel S. Aikman, a Presbyterian minister of Cincinnati.

Politically Mr. Cotterman is a Democrat, and he has been called upon to serve his fellow citizens as township trustee and treasurer, also the treasurer of Lewisburg, and a

member of the city council. Fraternally he is a member of Libanus Lodge, No. 80, F. & A. M., of Lewisburg, and religiously he and his family are members of the Lutheran church, taking an active and prominent part in its work. He is a worthy representative of that class of citizens who lead quiet, industrious, honest and useful lives and constitute the best portion of a community. Wherever known he is held in high regard, and is certainly deserving of honorable mention in the history of the county where almost his entire life has been passed.

FRANK HOMAN.

Frank Homan is one of the representative merchants of Eaton, where he has successfully conducted a furniture store. His business qualifications have won him a place among the leading representatives of the mercantile interests of this city and his honorable career has gained him uniform confidence and regard.

Mr. Homan was born near Eaton on the 17th of September, 1847. His father, Benjamin Homan, was a native of Pennsylvania and a son of Keeder Homan, whose birth occurred in New Jersey. In 1811 Keeder Homan came with his family to Ohio, taking up his abode in Warren county, where he followed his trade of blacksmithing. Benjamin Homan, the father of our subject, came with his father to the Buckeye state in 1811, and to Preble county in 1828, locating at Lewisburg. He was a farmer and miller in early life, but afterward became identified with the mercantile interests of Eaton, where he located in 1856. For seven years he successfully conducted a grocery store and then, on the capital which he had acquired through his own well directed and

honorable efforts, he retired to private life, his remaining days being passed in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. Throughout his entire life he was a consistent Christian and at one time was a trustee of the Methodist church, at the time its house of worship was erected in Eaton. He married Miss Margaret E. Grissom, a daughter of Frederick Grissom, of Virginia, who belonged to one of the prominent families of the Old Dominion. Mrs. Homan died in 1899, leaving two children—Frank, of this review, and Keturah, the wife of J. C. Hoover.

Frank Homan, the well known merchant of Eaton, pursued his education in the local schools and at an early age began to earn his own livelihood working on a farm. Subsequently, when thirteen years of age, he entered his father's store and was there employed until May, 1864, when, at the age of sixteen years, he responded to his country's call for troops. He enlisted in the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry and was discharged in the following autumn. After his return he again entered his father's store, but subsequently was employed as a salesman in a dry-goods house in Mexico, Indiana, for nearly six years. Returning to Preble county in 1878, he took charge of the home farm, which he operated for ten years, when, in 1888, he embarked in the furniture business in Eaton. He carries a large and well selected stock and enjoys a liberal patronage. He is now associated in business with J. F. Randall, the partnership having been formed in February, 1899. He is known as a very enterprising and reliable business man and occupies a leading position in the commercial circles of Eaton.

On the 19th of May, 1880, was cele-

brated the marriage of Mr. Homan and Miss Louisa Crist, a daughter of George Crist, of Indiana. They are widely known and have many warm friends in Preble county. Mr. Homan is a Republican in his political affiliations and for eight years served as a township trustee, proving a most competent officer. He has devoted his attention and concentrated his energies toward improving the details of his business, and with a mind to resolve, an understanding to direct and a hand to execute he has steadily carried forward his work, gaining for himself a gratifying competence. His reliability is above question and his place among the substantial and trustworthy merchants of Eaton is assured.

MARTHA J. HAMILTON.

Martha J. Hamilton is a representative of an honored pioneer family of Preble county and is living upon the old homestead. Of Scotch lineage, the Hamiltons intermarried with people of Irish birth and thus the ancestry of the family is Scotch-Irish, and among the representatives of the name in the present generation are displayed many of the sterling characteristics of those two strong races of Celtic origin. The first of whom we have record is Alexander Hamilton. His son, Samuel Hamilton, the great-grandfather of our subject, was born about 1772, and the latter had a son, Samuel, who became the grandfather of Miss Hamilton, of this review. Samuel Hamilton, Jr., married Miss Jane Smith, of Israel township, and ten children, six sons and four daughters, were born of their union and reached mature years. One daughter died at the age of eighteen, but the others were married and had families. The grandpar-

ents removed from South Carolina to Kentucky, where they resided from 1806 until 1815. The journey to the Blue Grass state was made by team and thence they came to Ohio in the same manner, crossing the river at Cincinnati on a ferry.

On reaching Preble county they took up their abode on section 24, Israel township. Not a furrow had been turned nor an improvement of any kind made upon the place, but Samuel Hamilton erected there a log cabin and with characteristic energy began the development of the farm. He cleared his land, comprising one hundred and sixty acres, and where once stood the forest trees were soon seen rich fields of waving grain. When his eldest son was married, he removed to another farm, where the village of Morning Sun now stands, leaving the son in charge of the old home place. There he and his wife lived for many years. He died in 1822, and his wife, long surviving him, passed away in Indiana in 1856, at the age of eighty-one.

George F. Hamilton, the father of Miss Hamilton, of this review, was born in South Carolina, in June, 1799, and accompanied his parents in their various removals until they became residents of Preble county. He assisted in the arduous task of developing the new land and improving the old homestead. Having arrived at years of maturity, he completed his plans for a home of his own by his marriage to Miss Hanna Ramsey, who was born in Kentucky in 1804, a daughter of Dr. John Ramsey. Their marriage was celebrated at the old Ramsey homestead on Christmas day, 1826, and their union was blessed with twelve children, three daughters and nine sons. Two of the sons died in infancy, but the other ten children reached years of maturity and all have mar-

ried, with the exception of Martha J. Hamilton, who was born in 1827 and is still living at the old family home. Among the other members of the family in this locality is James. Robert Calvin received a college education and won the degrees of M. D. and D. D. He is a physician of the regular school and a minister of the United Presbyterian church. He resides in Randolph county, Illinois, with his family, which includes one son and one daughter. The mother of these children died on the old home farm in 1873, and the father, surviving her thirteen years, passed away in 1886. He was very successful in his business affairs, acquiring six hundred acres of land and assisted his children in getting a good start in life. A man of the highest respectability, he was always true to every duty that devolved upon him and enjoyed the warm regard of all with whom he associated.

James Hamilton, a brother of Martha J. Hamilton, is actively connected with the agricultural pursuits of Preble county, owning and operating a tract of land on section 23, Israel township. He was born in this neighborhood in 1842, was reared to farm labor, and, during the winter season, pursued his education in the district schools. On the 15th of December, 1864, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Newton, whose birth occurred in Somers township, March 13, 1843, her parents being Asa and Lydia (Cook) Newton. They were farming people of Preble county and had ten children, of whom five sons and four daughters reached mature years, while two sons and three daughters are yet living. The father died in 1880, at the age of sixty-nine years, but the mother is still living, at the age of eighty-eight. Mr. and Mrs. Hamilton have

lost one daughter, Ella, who was married and died in her twenty-first year, her only child passing away at the same time. The surviving members of the family are Clara, now the wife of James Kirk, by whom she has three sons and two daughters, namely: Mary, William, Ruth, John and George; Mary, the wife of George H. Keaning, by whom she has one son, Ernest E., now two years old; and Robert C., who is learning the tailor's trade in Richmond, Indiana.

In 1864, during the civil war, Mr. Hamilton enlisted as a member of the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry and served for four months. He is now granted a pension of eight dollars per month. In politics he is a stanch Republican, unswerving in his advocacy of the principles of the party. He has served for several terms as a supervisor and has been the road commissioner for thirty years, a fact which indicates in an unmistakable manner that his duties are well performed. Both he and his wife are members of the United Presbyterian church. They have been living for thirty-five years upon this farm, which comprises thirty-five acres, and there he carries on general farming and stock raising, especially the breeding of hogs.

ALBERT L. BORRADAILE.

Albert L. Borradaile is capably serving in the position of sheriff of Preble county, Ohio, discharging his duties without fear or favor and thus winning the commendation of all concerned. The Borradaile family, of which he is a representative, is probably of French origin and was established in America several generations ago. This is the only family in America spelling the name in this way.

Our subject was born in Dixon township, Preble county, on the 12th of September, 1850. His father, Joseph H. Borradaile, was a native of New Jersey, and during his childhood came with his parents to Ohio, the family locating near Waynesville. Soon afterward, however, he came to Preble county, where he spent his life as a farmer and mechanic. He operated a machine shop on his farm, preferring work there to the pursuits of the field. He worked his farm by means of hired hands and in the control of his business met with creditable success. He died in Israel township, Preble county, at the age of sixty years, respected by all his neighbors. His wife bore the maiden name of Sarah Ann Brown and was a daughter of William Brown, one of the pioneers of the county. The marriage was celebrated in Israel township, where Mrs. Borradaile was born and is still living. Their family consisted of three children, who yet survive, and twins, who died in infancy. Albert L. Borradaile, of this review, is the eldest. The second, Sarah Elizabeth, is the wife of Zeno Roberts and resides on the old family homestead. Edwin G. operates the home farm.

In taking up the personal history of our subject we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known. He pursued his education in the public schools near his home and when about eighteen years of age entered the Eaton high school, where he continued his education for two years. Subsequently he engaged in teaching for five years, terminating his professional labors of that character as a teacher in the village schools of Morning Sun, in Israel township. He afterward turned his attention to merchandising, conducting a general store in Camden, where he

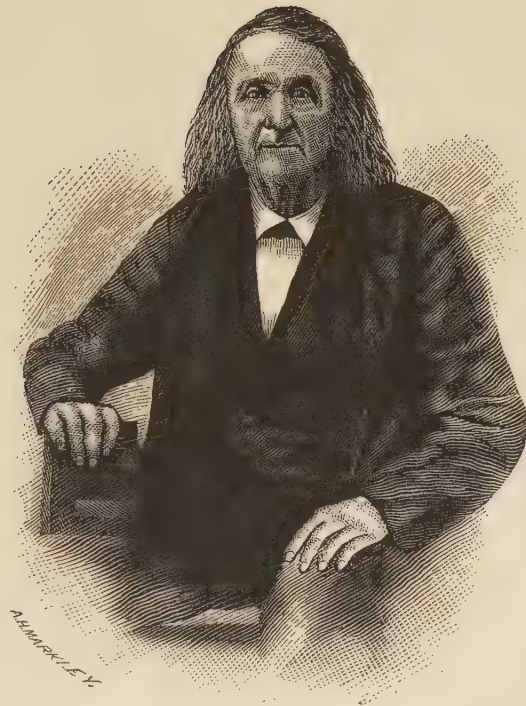
did a flourishing business for about twenty years. His earnest desire to please his patrons, his well directed efforts and his un-failing courtesy secured to him a large trade, which brought to him a good income. He also served as an express agent at Camden for twelve years of that time. His fellow townsmen, recognizing his worth and ability, have frequently called him to public office. He was three times elected justice of the peace, serving for about seven years, and his course was marked by the utmost impartiality and fairness. He was also the treasurer of the corporation of Camden for nine years, and carefully guarded the city exchequer. In 1896 he was chosen on the Republican ticket as a candidate for the office of sheriff, and, although opposed by a very able man on the Democratic ticket, he was elected by a plurality of sixty-five votes. So faithfully and promptly did he discharge the duties of the office that he was re-elected in 1898, and a queer coincidence was that he was opposed by the same Democratic candidate and received the same majority as at the first election. He has made a very popular and efficient officer, counting his friends by the thousands. In the administration of his official duties he is careful and considerate, yet at all times just, giving due regard to the rights of all concerned.

Mr. Borradaile was married in Preble county, in 1874, to Miss Carrie S. Taylor, a native of Mount Vernon, Knox county, Ohio. She was visiting in Preble county at the time Mr. Borradaile formed her acquaintance and their friendship terminated in marriage. Their union has been blessed with four children, but the eldest, Ada, died in infancy. Taylor A. is a student in the public schools, born May 8, 1885; Myrtle K. was born December 27, 1886; and Trevia

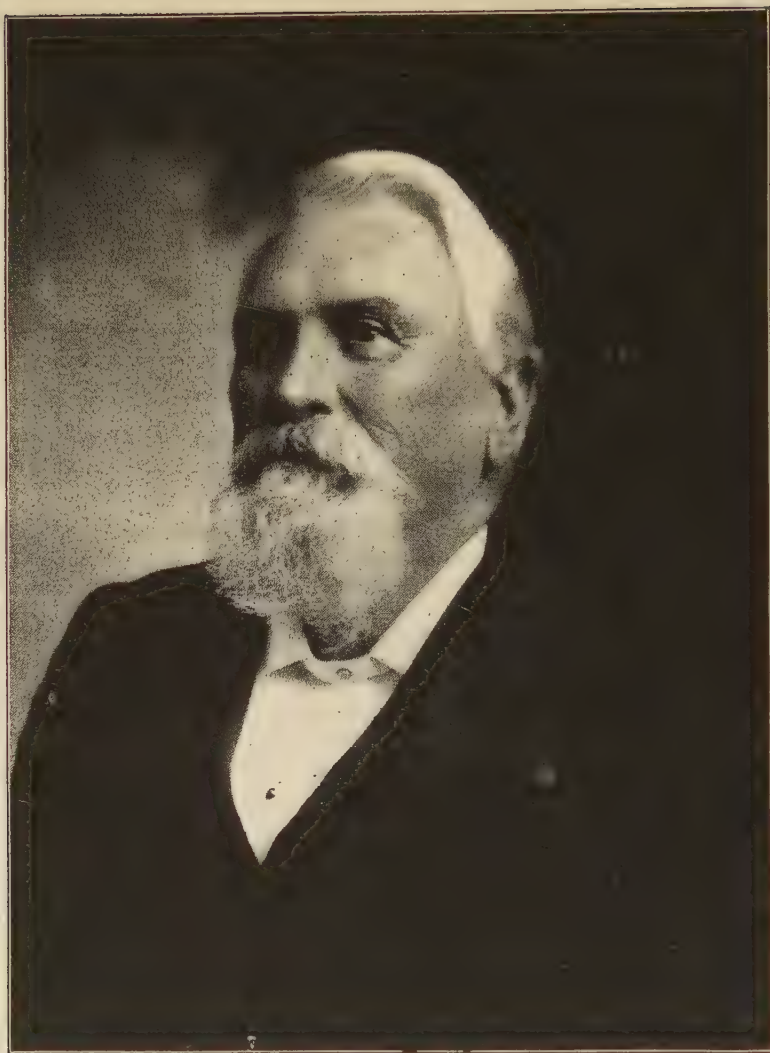
S. was born March 4, 1889. Mr. Borradaile was formerly identified with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, but has withdrawn from that society. He is a charter member of Camden Lodge, No. 259, K. of P., of which he is past chancellor commander and still retains his membership in that organization. He was reared in the faith of the Friends' church, his mother being a lifelong member of that organization, but neither he nor his wife is identified with any religious denomination, although they give earnest support to gospel work. They are widely and favorably known in Preble county, and Mr. Borradaile is a public official in whom the community has the utmost confidence.

SILAS DOOLEY.

Silas Dooley is a farmer of Preble county whose birth occurred on the 2d of May, 1825, on the farm which is now his home. His father, Silas Dooley, was born in Harrod's Station, Kentucky, in 1786, and was a son of Moses Dooley, who removed from Bedford, Virginia, to Kentucky in 1781. The family is of Welsh lineage, the original ancestors having emigrated from Wales to the new world during the colonial epoch in our country's history. In 1805 the parents of our subject removed from Kentucky to Preble county, Ohio, locating on what is known as the Brower place, near Friendship Church house and graveyard, in Gasper township. At that time the Indians were numerous here, having not as yet left for their reservations in the west. Mr. Dooley secured a tract of government land, receiving a deed to the same in 1811. The original parchment document is now in possession of our subject and is signed by James Madi-



SILAS DOOLEY, SR.



SILAS DOOLEY.



MRS. SILAS DOOLEY.

son and James Monroe, who were then serving as president and secretary of state respectively. The father of our subject was a hardworking man, noted as a successful woodchopper. He not only cleared his own farm but aided in clearing the land upon which the cities of Eaton and Camden now stand. For many years he operated a saw mill and was thus actively identified with the industrial interests of his adopted county. He served as justice of the peace for a long period, was trustee of Gasper township for many years and in many respects was regarded as one of the most prominent and influential residents of his community. It was in Ohio that he married Miss Johannah Westerfield, theirs being the first marriage certificate issued in this county. Mrs. Dooley was a daughter of Samuel Westerfield, a minister of the Presbyterian church in Kentucky, who during the Revolutionary war had loyally aided the colonies in their struggle for independence. His daughter, Mrs. Dooley, often related to her son Silas stories of her father's Revolutionary experiences and of their pioneer life in Kentucky. The Indians in that state were very treacherous and warlike and the settlers had to live in block-houses for protection. In a fight with the Red men Mr. Dooley's great-grandfather was killed. His wife and two of her daughters escaped from the house but were soon captured. Later, however, they again made their escape. Silas Dooley, the father of our subject, died in 1877, at the age of ninety-one years and four months, and his wife passed away in 1858, at the age of seventy-two years.

Of their seven children, our subject is now the only one living. He attended the

common schools, such as were common in those early days, and the labors of the field occupied much of his attention during his youth. On the 7th of May, 1864, he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting in the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, at Eaton. He participated in several battles in Maryland and was promoted to the rank of first lieutenant in recognition of meritorious service on the field of battle.

Returning to his home Mr. Dooley resumed farming and is to-day the owner of one hundred and sixty acres of valuable land, the richly cultivated fields yielding to him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestowed upon them. Throughout his entire life he has carried on agricultural pursuits and his diligence and close application have brought to him that financial reward which ever crowns well directed and honorable effort.

Mr. Dooley was married on the 27th of September, 1846, to Miss Isabel McCracken, of Washington township, and their union was blessed with two children, one of whom is now living, Emma I., widow of William Morgan, and a resident of Preble county. Mr. Dooley casts his vote with the Republican party but has always refrained from accepting public office, desiring that his time and energies shall be given to his business affairs. He has been junior vice commander of the Grand Army post to which he belongs, and is a supporter of the church and of all measures calculated to prove of public benefit. In business affairs his word is as good as any bond that was ever solemnized by signature or seal, and such a man certainly deserves recognition in the history of his native county.

CHARLES E. GAY.

The expression "the dignity of labor" is exemplified in the life records of this gentleman—a well-known lumber, tobacco and coal dealer of Lewisburg—whose success in life is attributable to his untiring industry. He is a man of strong force of character, purposeful and energetic, and his keen discrimination and sound judgment are shown in the capable management of his business affairs.

He was born in Dayton, Ohio, August 22, 1852, and is of the ninth generation of the Gay family in America, being able to trace his ancestry back to John Gay, who came to this country from England with Governor Winthrop, in 1630, and first settled in Watertown, Connecticut, but later established one of the plantations at Dedham, Massachusetts. Our subject's great-grandfather, Luther Gay, was born in Killingly, Connecticut, in 1740, and his grandfather, Coburn Gay, was born in New Hampshire, in 1770. His father, Hiram Gay, was also a native of the latter state, born May 1, 1818, and was a shoemaker by trade, carrying on that business in Johnsville and Lewisburg, Ohio, for some years. He came to Lewisburg in 1867, and died here at the age of sixty-nine years. He took quite an active and prominent part in public affairs, serving as a township trustee, a member of the village council and a member of the school board. He was a great reader, always kept well informed on the leading questions and issues of the day, and was especially interested in educational matters. He married Maria Reed, a native of Scotland, who came to this country with her parents when a child of five years, landing in Baltimore, Maryland. She was left an

orphan at the age of sixteen and later was brought to Dayton, Ohio, by a family with whom she lived for a short time. By her marriage she became the mother of eight children—four sons and four daughters—all of whom reached mature years, namely: Anna E., the wife of F. L. Wood, of Lewisburg; George B., a resident of Indianapolis, Indiana; Charles E., our subject; Frank P., Mary E. and John W., all residents of Lewisburg; and Lucy J. and Bithia, both deceased.

Charles E. Gay spent the first eleven years of his life in Dayton, and then removed with the family to Johnsville, Montgomery county, where he remained about ten years, working by the month as a farm hand for different parties. In 1871 he came to Lewisburg, and commenced raising tobacco, which pursuit he followed until 1884, when he turned his attention to buying and selling tobacco on commission, in which trade he is still successfully engaged. He also became interested in the lumber business in 1886 and the coal business about the same time, and still carries on operations along those lines. He is a wide-awake, energetic and progressive business man, and the prosperity that has come to him is certainly well merited.

On the 6th of July, 1877, Mr. Gay was united in marriage with Miss Izora Hapner, who was born in Lewisburg, November 1, 1858, a daughter of Michael Hapner, one of the early settlers of Preble county. By this union has been born four children: Russell M., who married Nina Smith and resides in Lewisburg; Harry and Hazel, both at home; and one child died in infancy.

Socially Mr. Gay affiliates with the Knights of Pythias Lodge, No. 695, of Lewisburg, and politically is identified with the

Democratic party. Like his father, he takes a deep and commendable interest in educational affairs, and has been an efficient member of the school board for twelve years. He is also a member of the village council, and is eminently public-spirited and progressive, giving his support to every enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit.

LEWIS F. PARMERLEE.

Success is determined by one's ability to recognize opportunity and to pursue this with a resolute and unflagging energy. It results from continued labor, and the man who thus accomplishes his purpose usually becomes an important factor in the business circles of the community with which he is connected. Mr. Parmerlee, through such means, has attained a leading place among the representative men of Lewisburg, and his well-spent and honorable life commands the respect of all who know him.

He was born in Boonsboro, Washington county, Maryland, November 15, 1837, and on the paternal side is of Scotch-Irish descent. His father, William C. Parmerlee, was a native of New York city, where he grew to manhood, and learned the hatter's and furrier's trade, which he later followed in Boonsboro, Maryland, whither he removed about 1834. He continued in business there until his death, which occurred in 1848, when he was thirty-eight years of age. In Meadville, Pennsylvania, he married Catherine J. Bierly, a native of that city; and to them were born four children: John H., who died at Shiloh, in 1863, while a soldier of the civil war; Lewis F., our subject; William, a resident of North Manchester, Indiana, and Mary C., who wedded Adam A. Rice and died in 1898. The mother was

again married, her second husband being George Marker, by whom she has a daughter, Georgiana, now the wife of Charles E. Singer, of Lewisburg, Ohio. The mother died in Lewisburg, at the age of seventy-two years.

Mr. Parmerlee spent the first eighteen years of his life in his birthplace, and there acquired a rather limited education, leaving school at the age of nine years. At the age of ten he began the battle of life for himself, empty-handed, and in 1855 came to Preble county, Ohio, where he worked at anything which he could find to do. Learning the carpenter's trade, he was employed at the same for twelve years. For his first year at the trade he received sixty dollars, and for eleven years he and a partner successfully engaged in contracting and building in Lewisburg. He also engaged in the nursery business until 1880, and has since been interested in the real estate and loan business. In 1884 he became connected with the leaf-tobacco trade, and a member of the firm of Smith & Parmerlee is still interested in that industry. Besides his city property he owns a fine farm of one hundred and four acres in this county. In 1891 he was one of the organizers of the People's Bank, of which he was elected president; Samuel Oldfather, cashier, and W. C. Moore, assistant cashier. The stockholders are Lewis F. Parmerlee, H. P. Smith, Lewis Fonney, E. C. Crider, A. T. Horne and Grant Sheller. The bank is now on a good paying basis, and is one of the solid financial institutions of the county.

In 1862 Mr. Parmerlee married Miss Hargaret Hanna, but she and their only child are both deceased. He was again married, in 1867, his second union being with Miss Joan F. Emens, a native of Lewisburg,

and a daughter of Peter Emens, who was born in New Jersey and came to this county in 1840. Our subject has no children.

Socially Mr. Parmerlee is a member of Libanus Lodge, No. 80, F. & A. M., and politically an ardent Republican, having served as presidential elector in 1896. He is a wide-awake, energetic business man of known reliability and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. He belongs to that class of men whom the world terms self-made, for, coming to this county without capital, he has conquered all obstacles in the path to success, and has not only secured a handsome competence but by his efforts has materially advanced the interest of the community with which he associated. He is a prominent figure in business circles and ranks among the leading men of Lewisburg.

ALFRED DENNY.

There is particular satisfaction in reverting to the life history of the honored and venerable gentleman whose name initiates this review since his mind bears the impress of the historic annals of the state of Ohio from the early pioneer days, and from the fact that he has been a loyal son of the republic and has attained to a position of prominence in the thriving little city of Eaton. He was born in this locality and is now one of the revered patriarchs of the community. He has traveled throughout the state when it was a sparsely settled region, the Indians being far more numerous than the white settlers in many sections. His mind is stored with many interesting incidents of the frontier, and his long, active and honorable identification with the county makes it imperative that the record of his

life be given in this work, else the history of the county would be incomplete.

Mr. Denny was born near Banker's Mill, in what is now Butler county, on the 2d of October, 1819. His father, James Denny, was born near Hagerstown, Maryland, and during his boyhood removed with his parents to Pennsylvania. The family is of Irish lineage and was founded in America by James Denny, Sr., the grandfather of our subject, who on leaving the Emerald Isle took up his abode in Baltimore, in 1770. His father, John Denny, came to America about the same time. The latter was a highly educated man and an Irish flax-spinner. His home government did not wish the Irish to export flax, and accordingly John Denny sought a home in the new world, where the spirit of liberty and independence was gradually growing stronger and stronger until it resulted in the overthrow of British rule. After the inauguration of the Revolutionary war John Denny joined the American army and served with the colonial forces until American independence was achieved. On the maternal side our subject is also of good old Revolutionary stock, for his grandfather, Jonas Hunt, was also a loyal member of the American army. A surveyor by profession, he took an active part in surveying the wild land of Washington county, Pennsylvania, and was at one time the owner of large tracts in the wealthy coal region of that state. A leader in public thought and opinion, he was recognized as one of the most prominent residents of his community. He had twenty-five hundred dollars in continental money at one time, which was never redeemed by the government; but in recognition of his services he received thirty dollars per month pension money.

James Denny, the father of our subject,

emigrated westward in 1808, taking up his abode on Elk creek, in Butler county, Ohio. Later, however, he removed to Twin Valley, making his home at Postown for a time. In 1838 he went to New Paris, Preble county, and in 1840 settled at Pendleton, Indiana, where he died in 1858. He was a farmer, miller and millwright, and although he started in life empty-handed he possessed a comfortable property, at the time of his death. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Hunt, was a native of New Jersey, and died in 1882, at the advanced age of eighty-six years. In the family of this worthy couple were seven children, of whom two are living, Jonas, who resides in Wichita, Kansas, and is eighty-four years of age, and Alfred, of this sketch.

Amid the wild scenes of frontier life Alfred Denny spent the days of his boyhood and youth and experienced the usual hardships and trials that fall to the lot of those who became pioneer settlers: He pursued his education in the old brick schoolhouse in Middleton, Butler county, and in early life learned the printer's trade. In 1836, however, he came to Eaton and accepted a clerkship in the employ of Ellis Mitchell, who was the proprietor of a drug store. For three years he served in that capacity, after which he spent three years in Greenville, Ohio. On the expiration of that period he returned to Eaton and for twenty years was engaged in business on his own account, failing health forcing his retirement. In 1844 he became agent for the American Fur Company, of New York, and in that capacity traveled through Indiana, Kentucky and Ohio. Under his superintendence there were one hundred and fifty agents engaged in buying furs through those states. They secured the pelts of deer,

coons, foxes, both red and gray, wolves, bears, beavers, otters and wild-cats, and in a single year obtained forty-four thousand coon skins. Mr. Denny remained with the company for fourteen years and can relate many interesting stories concerning the experiences with fur traders in this section of the country at an early day. He made judicious investments in real estate and is now the owner of three farms, comprising respectively one hundred and sixty-four, seventy and twenty-three acres.

In his political views Mr. Denny has been a stalwart Republican since the organization of the party and has exercised a strong influence in its behalf. He has been prominent in its councils and conventions, and was a delegate to Columbus, Ohio, when the Republican party was organized in that city in 1854. Judge Rufus P. Spaulding, Hon. John Sherman, Joshua R. Giddings and Hon. Benjamin F. Wade, together with other public men, were his life-long friends; and the frequent interchange of letters were the means of continuing their social relations. He still owns a bed which was once occupied by "Ben" Wade. In 1855 Mr. Denny was very active in advocating the election of John Sherman to congress, and on every occasion when he has been a candidate for office since that time has been his earnest supporter. He says that the opinion that Mr. Sherman is of a cold and unsympathetic nature is utterly unfounded, and his long acquaintanceship, covering more than half a century, has certainly enabled him to be an excellent judge of the characteristics of the Ohio statesman. In 1869 Mr. Denny was appointed the doorkeeper of the senate, which position he acceptably filled for four years. In *ante bellum* days he was very active in promoting the "underground rail-

road," and his home was a "station" on that line. He aided more than a hundred slaves in making their escape from Kentucky through Ohio to Canada. The black men were taken to a house on the top of Vine street hill in Cincinnati and from there to Elkton, a little Quaker town in Preble county, where they were sheltered by Alonzo Stubbs. In the night they were conveyed through Eaton to New Paris, Preble county, where they were cared for by Mr. Grimes until the next night, when they were sent on their way to Newport and thence to Cabin creek, Indiana, proceeding thus step by step to the free northern country. As many as nine negroes at a time have been conveyed through Eaton on their way to freedom, and Mr. Denny gave of his time and money to promote the work. During the civil war Mr. Sherman secured his appointment to the position of captain and assistant quartermaster, and in 1864, through the influence of Mr. Sherman, he was appointed Indian agent for the Sioux Indians. This appointment was confirmed by the senate, but he did not accept the office.

In early manhood Mr. Denny was united in marriage to Miss Frances B. Holliday, who is now seventy-nine years of age. She is a daughter of James Holliday, one of the early settlers of Preble county, and a granddaughter of William Bruce, who founded the town of Eaton. He purchased seventeen and a quarter sections of land here in 1805, and the following year the town was laid out and the county was organized. In 1821 the population of the town was two hundred and seventy-five. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Denny were born three children, two of whom are living, Hannah and Laura, the former now the widow of John Beatty. For fifty-six years Mr. Denny has been a valued

member of the Odd Fellows society, aided in organizing the lodge in Eaton, and is now one of the oldest representatives. His life has been a very active and useful one. Although he has attained the age of eighty-one years his mental faculties are strong and vigorous, and his life record forms a link between the primitive past and prosperous present. For many years he was an active factor in business, social and political life, and upon the progress and advancement of Preble county he has left the impress of his strong individuality. He certainly deserves to be mentioned among the founders of Preble county, and his name will ever be engraved among its honored pioneers.

MARTIN S. SAYLER.

Martin S. Sayler, a farmer of Somers township, was born in the house which is still his home, on the 19th of July, 1850. His father, Abraham T. Sayler, was born in Lanier township, March 5, 1812, and was a representative of one of the early pioneer families. The grandfather of our subject was Christian Sayler, who was born in Maryland, of Swiss parentage, the date of his birth being 1785. In 1806 he accompanied his parents on their removal to Franklin county, Pennsylvania, but the same year he and his brother John came to Ohio, locating in Lanier township, Preble county, where he was united in marriage with Mary Teal, a daughter of Samuel Teal. She was born in Frederick county, Maryland, September 11, 1789, and their wedding occurred in 1811. The same year they removed to a farm at the mouth of Otterman creek, where, in 1805, one of their relatives had entered land. In 1814 they removed from that farm to the old family homestead upon

which our subject now resides. It was then in the midst of a dense forest, the land being heavily timbered. Abraham T. Sayler, the father of our subject, was at that time but two years old. His parents tied a bell to him lest he should be lost in the woods! There were but few settlers in this section of the county at that time. No roads had been made and only bridle paths led from the various homes to mill or market. The settlers carried their grists on horseback to mill, and went long distances to secure store supplies. Abraham Sayler aided in cutting the roads and clearing the land, and during one season he went to seventeen log rollings on seventeen successive days. He was one of a large family and the eldest who reached years of maturity. The others were: Elizabeth; Joseph, who died in childhood; Maria; Jacob; Katie, who died in childhood; Melissa, who had two sons and two daughters who were married and had children of their own; Joseph, who is now living in Monroe township, Preble county, at the advanced age of seventy-seven years; and Maria, the wife of John W. Allen, also of Monroe township. The grandfather of our subject died at the age of sixty-seven years, and his wife died at the age of ninety-one, their remains being interred in Young's cemetery.

Abraham Sayler was reared amid the wild scenes of the frontier and experienced all the hardships and trials of pioneer life. Having arrived at years of maturity he wedded Elizabeth Rinehart, who was born May 25, 1817, a daughter of Abraham Rinehart. She was born near Winchester and was married August 26, 1838. Their first child, William H. H., was born in 1840 and died in infancy; Mary Magdalen, born February 8, 1843, became the wife of Nelson S. Bennett, and died June 10, 1893, soon after her

mother's death; Benjamin F., born in 1845, died December 26, 1873; Minerva was born in 1847, is now Mrs. Guakian; Martin S. is the next of the family; Fanny Ann, born October 22, 1852, died January 14, 1864; Salina was born in 1855 and died in 1856; Cicero, who was born in 1857, died in 1864, at the age of seven years; and Adrian, who was born in 1861, died in 1864, when three years old. Of the nine children all have passed away but our subject and his sister Minerva, wife of Patrick Guakian, a native of Ireland, who is now following farming in Gasper township, Preble county. The father was a Whig and Republican, but never sought office and never held a public position save that of school director. The cause of education found in him a warm friend and he took an active interest in every movement that would promote the effectiveness of the schools. He aided in building the first log schoolhouse in his neighborhood. It had an earth floor, greased paper windows, a mud-and-stick chimney, and one end of the room was occupied by an immense fireplace in which huge logs were burned. The desks were boards laid upon pegs driven into the walls, and the seats were puncheon slabs on wooden pins. This rude schoolhouse was built on short notice, having been begun on Friday morning and was ready for occupancy by the next Monday morning, at which time the teacher had been engaged to open school. Mr. Sayler served as a captain of militia for many years, of the Light Infantry. He was a man of military tastes and soldierly bearing and drilled recruits for the civil war in 1861. He was known throughout the community by the title of captain. In the fall of 1862 his eldest son went to the war, serving for three years as the color-bearer of the Eighty-first Ohio In-

fantry. Captain Sayler was a believer in the divine truths, but never held membership in any church. He died March 6, 1899, and his wife passed away June 29, 1898. They now rest side by side in the Young cemetery.

Martin S. Sayler, whose name introduces this review, was reared to farm life, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that devolve upon the agriculturist. His school privileges were limited to attendance during two summers and one winter term, owing to sickness and death in the family. The father, however, was a scholarly man who read extensively and his influence proved of great benefit to the son. Our subject has never left the old homestead, but throughout his entire life has carried on agricultural pursuits there. He was married May 20, 1875, to Sarah Ann Swihart, of Preble county, a daughter of James and Mary (Miller) Swihart. Her grandfather was David Miller, an elder in the Dunkard church. Mr. and Mrs. Sayler now have five children. Charlie A. and Hugh J. were twins. The former died at the age of seven months, but the latter is still at home. Theodore S. is the third of the family. The only daughter is Mary B., who was born February 17, 1893. George H., the youngest, was born November 2, 1897. The home occupied by Mr. Sayler and his family was built by his father in 1852 and contains a part of the old log house, the remainder having been torn down in 1862. The famous large log barn which is still in use was built by his grandfather seventy-five years ago. The farm comprises one hundred and fifty-eight acres, which was entered by the grandfather, Samuel Teal, about 1800. Mr. Sayler carries on general farming and makes a specialty of the breeding of good cattle and hogs.

He grows wheat and corn and raises as high as from thirteen to eighteen hundred bushels of wheat and from twelve to eighteen hundred bushels of corn annually. He has an excellent orchard, which was planted by himself, and all of the other improvements and accessories of a model farm are there found. Mr. Sayler is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows of the third degree of Camden Lodge, No. 109. He is a Democrat in politics, has served as a school director for the past twelve years and has also been the clerk of the district. He is one of the charter members of the Wayne Farmers' Club. The history of the Sayler family was published in 1898, in which the ancestry is traced back for a period of nearly two centuries, and the family has been founded in Preble county for one and a third centuries. They were Dunkards at an early day. The record goes back to 1575 in Germany, and the first American progenitor, Daniel Sayler, was born in Switzerland, June 15, 1708. Throughout a long connection with Preble county representatives of the name have taken an active part in its growth, development and progress, and have contributed greatly to its material advancement. As a member of this honored family and as a leading and influential citizen, Mr. Sayler well deserves mention in the history of his native county.

DANIEL BROWN.

Daniel Brown is engaged in the livery business in New Paris, and is an enterprising citizen of this community. He was born in Harrison township, Preble county, on the 14th of July, 1835. His father, George A. Brown, was a native of North Carolina, and during his boyhood was brought to Preble

county. His father, Adam Brown, was one of the pioneer settlers of this community. There were only three men in the county when he located within its borders, and he left the impress of his individuality upon the pioneer development of the state. Amid the wild scenes of the frontier George A. Brown was reared and later he married Miss Mary Ebersole, a native of Maryland, who came westward to Preble county with her parents during her girlhood. Her father, Feltz Ebersole, was a native of Maryland and followed the occupation of farming in Preble county for many years. Both the father and mother of our subject were of German descent, and the latter could speak only the German language when she came to Ohio. By their marriage were born eight children, all natives of Preble county, and Daniel Brown, of this review, is the fourth in order of birth. He was reared upon a farm in Harrison township and remained at home until he had attained his majority. During that period he pursued his education in the district school and engaged in farming until twenty-two years of age, when he removed to La Salle county, Illinois, spending a year in the Prairie state. On the expiration of that period he returned to Preble county and engaged in farming, a pursuit which he followed for some years. About 1870, however, he removed to Noble county, Indiana, where he spent two years in connection with the agricultural interests of that locality. He then returned to Harrison township, and in 1892 he came to New Paris. The following year he embarked in the livery business, which he has since carried on and in his undertaking he receives a liberal patronage.

Mr. Brown was married, in Harrison township, to Miss Mary E. Lock, a native of that township, and to them have been

born three children: Emma L., now the wife of James Harris, a resident of New Madison, Darke county, Ohio, employed as a traveling salesman; Logan L., a successful teacher now serving as the clerk of the courts; and Cordelia M., at home. Mr. Brown exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democratic party, but has never aspired to office, his attention being fully occupied by his business affairs, in which he is meeting with good success. His life has been a quiet yet useful and honorable one, commending him to the confidence and good will of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

WILLIAM HAMBIDGE.

William Hambidge, the popular manager of the Hotel Rossman, of Eaton, is one of the best-known residents of the city. His long connection with the interests of Eaton and his prominence in business and social circles have gained him prestige which few enjoy, and through his efforts the Hotel Rossman has become the most popular and paying enterprise of the kind in Preble county.

Mr. Hambidge was born in Warwickshire, England, January 11, 1848, and is the eldest son of John and Annie (Ellis) Hambidge, also natives of Warwickshire, where they were married. In 1854 they bade adieu to their old home and crossed the Atlantic to America, taking up their residence upon a farm in Dixon township, Preble county, where they lived until 1865. They then removed to Newton county, Indiana, where the father now owns and operates a fine farm. The mother died on that farm in 1887, since which time the father has resided with his children to a great extent. He

is now eighty-one years of age. In his family were eight children, seven of whom are yet living, namely: Kate, a resident of Richmond, Indiana; Mrs. S. A. Rossman, who is the widow of James W. Rossman and owns the Rossman House; William, of this review; Richard, a well-to-do farmer of Nebraska; Thomas, a successful agriculturist living near Lafayette, Indiana; John, who lives on the home farm; and George, who resides at Brook, Indiana.

William Hambidge, whose name introduces this review, was ten years old when his parents came to America, and since that time he has been a resident of the Buckeye state. During the civil war he enlisted, in May, 1864, as a member of Company H, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, and served his four-months term in Virginia. He afterward re-enlisted in the One Hundred and Eighty-seventh Ohio Infantry, serving for one year in Georgia, under General Wilson, being mostly engaged in fighting guerrillas, in following Sherman's army on the Atlanta campaign and in constructing railroads. At the close of the war he went to the old home in Indiana, where he remained for about a year, when he became a resident of Eaton, where he has since lived. For some time he has been associated with his sister, Mrs. Rossman, in the conduct of the Rossman Hotel, and in carrying on a bakery business and restaurant.

Mr. Hambidge is well fitted for his present occupation, being a genial, whole-souled gentleman who makes friends wherever he goes. Emerson says "the way to win a friend is to be one," and undoubtedly this is the secret of Mr. Hambidge's having a large host of admiring friends who entertain for him the highest regard. He is recognized

as one of the leading citizens of Eaton, and no new enterprise is undertaken in which his counsel and material assistance is not sought. Not only does he capably conduct the hotel, but, as before stated, is associated with his sister in other enterprises. The hotel building is a new, three-story brick, handsomely finished and finely furnished. The guests there are always sure to receive courteous treatment from the employes of the house and are enabled to enjoy comfortable rooms and an excellent bill of fare. Hotel Rossman is the traveling man's home in Eaton. In connection with the house there is also a fine bakery which not only supplies the hotel but sells to the general public. In every possible way Mr. Hambidge labors to promote the comfort and happiness of his guests and his patrons are always glad to return to him, knowing that they will receive a hearty welcome and considerable attention.

In public affairs Mr. Hambidge is quite prominent and has frequently been called to various positions. He served for eight years as the assessor of Washington township, which includes the city of Eaton. He also served for one term as the township treasurer. He was a charter member of Mulharen O'Kane Post, No. 3, G. A. R., and always attends the national encampments of the organization. In politics he is a recognized leader in Democratic ranks and has been a delegate to several state, county, congressional and judicial conventions. In business affairs he is energetic, prompt and notably reliable. Tireless energy, keen perception and honesty of purpose are his chief characteristics, and added to this is his genial and jovial manner, which has made him a most popular citizen.

WILLARD A. EIDSON.

The ancestors of our subject were among the band of heroic Pilgrims who crossed the Atlantic in the Mayflower and made the first settlement upon the bleak shores of New England in 1620. The Eidsons, however, resided in Virginia at an early day, and the great-grandfather of our subject, Boyce Eidson, was a minister of the Methodist Episcopal church in the Old Dominion. Henry Eidson, the grandfather, was born in Bedford county, Virginia, and at an early period in the development of Ohio emigrated westward, taking up his abode in Lanier township, Preble county, Ohio, where he followed farming. He was one of the pioneers of the Methodist faith in this locality, was an earnest Christian gentleman and erected a church on his farm near Enterprise. His son, Boyce Eidson, the father of our subject, was born in Bedford county, Virginia, in 1802, and during his boyhood came with his father to the Buckeye state. He, too, was an agriculturist and assisted in reclaiming the wild lands for purposes of civilization. He became a prosperous and enterprising farmer, and at one time served as county assessor, which was at that time a county and not a township office, as now. His death occurred in 1847. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Rebecca Ann Griffin, was born in 1808, and was a daughter of Jacob Griffin, of Delaware, and of Quaker extraction. Unto Boyce and Rebecca Ann (Griffin) Eidson the following children were born: Griffin H., of whom mention is made elsewhere in this volume; Henry B. and Charles B., deceased; Nancy Jane, the widow of C. P. Rensman, of Eaton; Francis Marion, of Darke county, Ohio; Priscilla, the wife of James Gable, of the state of

Washington; Willard A., of this review; Hannah, deceased, the only one of the children dying in childhood; Lucy E., the wife of H. H. Payne, of Camden, Ohio; Olivia, the deceased wife of W. Shewman; and Rebecca A., the deceased wife of Benjamin Smith.

Willard A. Eidson was born in West Alexandria, Lanier township, and having acquired his elementary education in the public schools continued his studies in the Normal School at Lebanon. Subsequently he engaged in teaching for three years. On the 23d of July, 1863, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, Mr. Eidson enlisted in the United States naval service, and was assigned to the gunboat Naumkeag, which rendered much service in convoying on the Mississippi, Red and White rivers. In this service our subject remained for the greater part of a year and then, on account of disabilities, was sent to Pinkney Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee, where he remained for six weeks. He was then transferred to the gunboat ram Avenger, on which he remained until the close of his service, which included the exciting Red river expedition, after which he was tendered a naval commission for meritorious conduct, but on account of disabilities received in line of duty, was prevented from accepting.

After the war Mr. Eidson went to the west, and for a time was engaged in cattle-raising in Kansas, but he lost everything in a prairie fire. In 1867 he returned to Eaton, where for twenty-three years he was engaged in merchandising. Failing health then forced his retirement, but for a time he engaged in the wholesale leaf-tobacco trade. Through a quarter of a century he was regarded as one of the most prominent and influential business men of the city, his af-

fairs being managed with keen discernment and sound judgment.

In his political relations Mr. Eidson is a Republican and a zealous worker in the ranks of his party. He was for nine years the city treasurer of Eaton, also served as a member of the city council, and in 1892 contested with John W. Cook, of Dixon township, Grant Sheller, of Harrison, and William Dove, of Washington, for the nomination for county auditor, securing the nomination and election. He was re-elected in 1895, by an increased majority of nearly five hundred votes over his majority on his first election, and much exceeding the majority over the head of his ticket—Governor Bushnell. This was a fitting endorsement of his efficiency and his many economic official reforms. On the close of his last term the Eaton Democrat, which had bitterly opposed his election, said, editorially: "While differing with Mr. Eidson radically politically it gives us pleasure to bear testimony to his fitness for the position in which the people of the county placed him and to say with absolute truth that no man ever held office in the county who discharged its responsible duties more efficiently, faithfully and satisfactorily, or who retired with cleaner hands or a cleaner official record. He turns the office over to his successor with the good will and best wishes of the people of the county, regardless of political predilections; for his success in whatever business he may engage." The Eaton Register said: "His conservative, respected course in the conduct of his office has brought strength to the party, and we voice the sentiment of our people in saying that he has conducted the office efficiently, economically and satisfactorily. 'Well done, good and faithful servant!'"

Since his retirement from office he has

lived retired although he superintends the operation of his farms and other affairs. He has been active in politics; was chairman of the county committee during the critical political events in Ohio in 1897 and was instrumental in securing the election of Mark Hanna as United States senator, owing to his effective organization, as chairman, of the working forces of his party in Preble county, it being a pivotal and doubtful county that year. He keeps well informed on the political, literary and economic questions of the day.

Mr. Eidson has been twice married. His first wife was Elizabeth Wyatt, a daughter of Levi Wyatt. She died in June, 1873, leaving one child, Charles W., who served as deputy county auditor under his father, and is still holding the same position. His second wife was Elizabeth, the daughter of Riley Pugh. They were married May 31, 1877, and had three children, but only one is now living, Joseph P. The other two boys died in childhood: an infant, and Riley B., who died when about three years of age. In his social relations Mr. Eidson is a Mason, and is regarded as one of the exemplary members of the fraternity in Eaton. He was the commander of the Grand Army Post in 1892-3, and greatly enjoys the meetings where, amid the "boys in blue," he recalls the scenes of army life when the Union was endangered and brave men throughout the north left their homes and battled for the supremacy of the national government. In his business affairs Mr. Eidson has been very successful, and the capable control of those interests with which he has been connected has brought to him deserved success. He is public-spirited and has borne a commendable part in the advancement of his native county, and may be fairly classed as a self-

made man; for, starting out in life a poor boy, without friends or means and beginning business without capital, yet by industry, economy and perseverance he has, in spite of fire, achieved success. He is of a retiring disposition, hates frauds, shams, hypocrisy and affectation. To do right is his religion, and he believes with Pope that "An honest man is the noblest work of God."

Regarding material and educational developments in the county, he says: "I remember the period of homespun fabrics from wool and flax, the spinning-wheel and loom, when the sickle was used instead of the self-binder, and the flail instead of the steam thresher; the era of log school houses with slab seats and big fire-places, when it was a distinction for a boy to cipher in the rule of three; before the rod was superseded by moral suasion; when it was incumbent on the master to sustain his sway and standing by physical force; when quill pens were in general use; when there were log churches with big seats and high pulpits from which the minister vehemently and with vigorous gesticulations preached hell fire; when stages were the means of travel; hoop-poles and coonskins among the commodities; corn-huskings, log-rollings, apple-cuttings and wood choppings the social events; flint-lock muskets amongst the firearms, and before the advent of railroads, telegraphs; electric motors, telephones and the innumerable labor-saving and civilizing inventions of the present day." In every feature of industry, what a contrast!

LOGAN L. BROWN.

For several years this gentleman has been one of the most popular and successful educators of Preble county, and is now serving

as clerk of the courts of the county, having been elected to that office in 1899. He was born in Noble county, Indiana, January 13, 1869, and is a son of Daniel and Mary E. (Lock) Brown, who are represented on another page of this volume.

Our subject was only two years old at the time of the removal of the family from Noble county, Indiana, to Preble county, Ohio, and in the district schools of Harrison township he began his education. He next attended the Euphemia grammar school, and for a time was a student in the high school at Lewisburg. He began the profession of teaching in Georgetown, Preble county, but desiring to obtain a better education he only taught one term at that time, after which he took a classical course at the Ohio Normal University at Ada, Hardin county, H. S. Lehr being president of the institution at that time. He afterward returned to Georgetown, where he successfully taught school for seven years. He taught one term in Montgomery county, this state, and then resigned his position there to become a teacher in the high school at New Paris, where he remained one year, and then became the principal of the West Sonora schools, a position he was holding at the time he was elected county clerk.

In 1893 he was graduated at the Miami Commercial College, at Dayton, Ohio, which was one of the ten colleges represented at the World's Fair, and he was the corresponding secretary for the fair exhibit for that institution. He took the required examination and received a diploma from the World's Fair board. For eleven years he successfully followed the profession of teaching, and was prominent as a member of the Teachers' Association of Preble county.

While a resident of New Paris Professor

Brown was elected the mayor of the city, and most creditably filled that office for one term. As a Democrat he has always taken an active and prominent part in local politics, and was a member of the election board of his township from the time he became a voter until his removal to New Paris. In 1899 he was elected clerk of the courts of Preble county, although he made no canvass, for he was teaching at the time, and he is now most capably and satisfactorily discharging the duties of that office. Since 1894 he has been a member of Harmony Lodge, No. 396, K. P., of New Paris, and has held all offices in the subordinate lodge and been a representative to the grand lodge of Ohio. He is one of the most prominent young men of the county, a leader both in social and political circles. Whether in public or private life, he is always a courteous, genial gentleman, and well deserves the high regard in which he is held.

FRANK CAMPBELL.

Frank Campbell, the city marshal of Eaton, was born in Jackson township, Preble county, on the 13th of May, 1856, his parents being William and Patsy (Fisher) Campbell. His father was born in Tennessee, January 8, 1816, and is now living on the farm where the birth of our subject occurred. The mother died June 16, 1878, after which the father married Miss Keziah Brubaker, of Jackson township. He is a well-preserved old gentleman and enjoys excellent health. In the family were three sons and a daughter, of whom our subject is the youngest. Harvey, the eldest, died in 1894, in middle life, leaving a widow to mourn his loss; Benjamin F. is a farmer of Jackson township; and the sister is Mrs. Sallie

Swisher, the wife of Samuel Swisher, also of Jackson township. Her husband is a grain and stock dealer and is well-to-do.

Mr. Campbell, whose name introduces this review, was reared upon the home farm and pursued his education in the country schools. After laying aside his text-books he engaged in farming on his own account in Jackson township. He inherited from his father fifty acres of land and purchased twenty-two acres additional. For about ten years he continued its cultivation and from the rich and fertile fields gathered good crops, which brought to him a desirable income. He then traded his property for a livery business in Eaton, but soon sold that, accepting a dwelling in partial payment. Later he was engaged in various lines of business until 1896, when he was elected city marshal by popular ballot. On the expiration of his first term of two years he was re-elected in 1898, and after serving a second term with satisfaction to the public was again re-elected in the spring of 1900. He is a faithful guardian of the public peace, and his worth as an official is widely acknowledged.

In Washington township, on the 26th of September, 1877, Mr. Campbell was united in marriage by Rev. Hiram Johnson, of the Methodist Episcopal church, to Miss Cora Monosmith, a native of Iowa, but residing in Jackson township at the time of her marriage. Her father was Emanuel Monosmith, who was a blacksmith by trade, and is now deceased. Her mother, who bore the maiden name of Rebecca Loy, is a resident of Eaton. Mr. and Mrs. Campbell have two children: Leonard, who was born in 1878; and Nellie, born in 1884. The former married Miss Carrie, a daughter of Frank Jones, of Eaton. The daughter is attend-

ing school. Mr. Campbell is a member of Waverly Lodge, No. 143, K. of P., and in politics was a Democrat until 1892, when he allied himself with the Republican forces and has since supported that party. Both he and his wife are active and consistent members of the Christian church, and Mrs. Campbell takes a zealous interest in its work, being associated with the various church societies. Mr. Campbell is a man of fine physique, being about six feet one and a half inches in height and weighing two hundred and five pounds. He enjoys excellent health and is well fitted for the responsible and important duties devolving upon him.

JOHN M. LEFFERSON.

John M. Lefferson, who is conducting an undertaking establishment in Eaton, was born in Butler county, Ohio, September 17, 1850. His father, Garrett Lefferson, was a native of the same county, and the grandfather, Arthur Lefferson, was born in New Jersey, whence he emigrated to Ohio prior to the year 1814. Garrett Lefferson has made farming his life work, following that pursuit throughout his active business career. He is still living, at the age of eighty-six years, his home being near Middletown, Butler county. In his business affairs he was quite successful, accumulating a comfortable competence. He holds membership in the Presbyterian church, and is a man of high respectability. His wife bore the maiden name of Rachael Clayton, and was a daughter of Thomas Clayton, of Butler county. She died in 1860. Of her twelve children five are still living, namely: William B., Thomas C. and Arthur D., all residents of Butler county; Alice, who is the widow of William Bailey, and is also living

in Butler county; and John M., of this review.

Mr. Lefferson was reared upon the home farm, early becoming familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. After the crops were harvested in the autumn, he entered the public schools and there pursued his studies until the return of spring caused him to enter the fields again. Not desiring to make farming his life work, however, he left home in 1881, and learned the undertaking business in Franklin, Warren county. He was graduated at the Oriental School of Embalming at Cincinnati, November 25, 1891, and has taken other courses, namely, at Richmond, Indiana, and a second course in Cincinnati. On the 26th of March, 1885, he located in Eaton, and has since been a leading undertaker of this city, doing a liberal share of the business in his line.

On the 2d of December, 1872, Mr. Lefferson was united in marriage to Miss Mary S. Denise, a daughter of Daniel and Eliza Denise, of New Jersey. Four children have blessed their union: Bertha; Lida, the wife of Frank Saylor, of West Alexandria; Ethel and Glenn. The family are well known in Eaton, and the members of the household occupy leading positions in social circles. Mr. Lefferson and his family hold membership in the Presbyterian church, in which he is a trustee. He is also a valued representative of various fraternal organizations, belongs to the Odd Fellows society and the order of Rebekah, the Masonic fraternity, the Order of the Eastern Star and the Independent Order of Foresters. Throughout an active and useful business life his honorable career has won him the respect and confidence of all with whom he has been brought in contact, and he is known as a reliable citizen and a

progressive man who gives his aid and co-operation to all movements and measures which he believes are calculated to prove of public good.

SIMON GEETING.

The subject of this personal narrative is one of the most successful and progressive farmers of Monroe township, his home being on section 24. He has made his special field of industry an eminent success and is highly esteemed and respected by those who know him.

A native of Preble county, Mr. Geeting was born in Twin township, June 15, 1849, and is a son of David and Tenne (Bickel) Geeting, natives of Maryland and Pennsylvania, respectively. It was during his boyhood that the father of our subject came to this county, and here he was mostly reared and educated. After his marriage he located on a farm in Twin township, which he improved, but spent his last days in Monroe township, where he died at the age of seventy-two years, his wife at the age of seventy-one. In their family were four children: Simon, our subject; Susanna, the wife of Adam House, a farmer of Monroe township; Jacob, a farmer of Jay county, Indiana; and Lavinia, the wife of Charles Fry, a farmer of Darke county, Ohio.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were principally passed in Monroe township, and in the common-schools of the district he acquired his education. He early became familiar with the duties which fall to the lot of the agriculturist, and aided his father in the operation of the home farm until his marriage, which was celebrated November 17, 1870, Miss Amanda Winternine becoming his wife. She is a native of

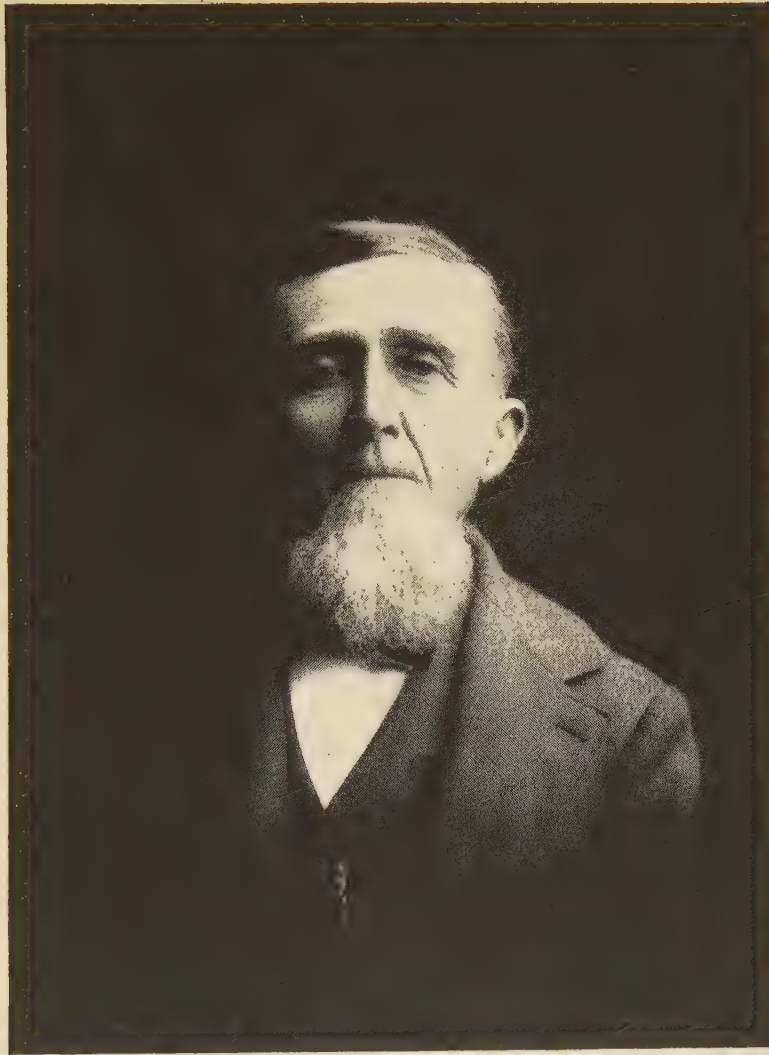
this county and a daughter of John G. and Sara Winternine, early settlers here. To Mr. and Mrs. Geeting were born five children, one son and four daughters, namely: Sarah C., still at her parental home; Laura and Mary, twins, the former the wife of Charles Laird, the latter of Rufus Weaver; and Harvey and Perly, at home.

Mr. and Mrs. Geeting began their domestic life on her father's farm in Washington township, where they lived about two years, and then moved to his father's farm, where the following two years were passed. At the end of that time he purchased ninety-six acres where he now resides, and has since added to it two eighty-acre tracts and another of three acres, making in all about two hundred and sixty acres, all under cultivation. Mr. Geeting has made the most of the improvements upon that place, including a good barn, erected in 1876, and a comfortable residence in 1877. He carries on general farming, and has also operated a threshing machine for the past twelve years, meeting with marked success in both undertakings. He is an enterprising and progressive agriculturist and a business man of more than ordinary ability.

Politically Mr. Geeting is a staunch Republican and has been called upon to serve as school director and road commissioner, the duties of which offices he has most capably performed. In his religious views he is a Lutheran, and he is widely and favorably known throughout the county.

JOHN G. OXER.

The name of OXER figures conspicuously in connection with the commercial and agricultural interests of Preble county, and John G. OXER's worth as a citizen has long been



John L. Oxen

demonstrated, for he belongs to that class of enterprising Americans who contribute to the public good while advancing individual prosperity. His life record contains many valuable lessons showing the possibilities that are before young men who desire to advance in life. He was born in Dixon township, Preble county, October 20, 1838, his parents being George W. and Phoebe (Gard) Oser. His father was born in Madison county, Kentucky, March 28, 1810, and the parents of the latter were James and Elizabeth (Ewing) Oser. The grandfather of our subject was a native of Virginia and when a young man removed to Kentucky, where he married and followed farming. In 1830 he removed with his family to Preble county, Ohio, settling about one mile northwest of Camden in Somers township, and there he resided until 1852, when he took up his abode in Warren county, Indiana, near Williamsport, continuing to reside there until he was called to the home beyond. He was a very bitter opponent of slavery, strong in his convictions and fearless in upholding what he believed to be right. He was of English descent, while his wife was of French lineage.

Their son, George W. Oser, was twenty years of age when he came with his parents to the Buckeye state. On attaining his majority he began working for Zimri Stratton, an old Quaker farmer of Dixon township and was employed as a farm hand until the time of his marriage, which occurred June 5, 1834. He began his domestic life on a small farm which he purchased about that time and which was located near his employer's farm. There he resided until the spring of 1839, when he moved across the Indiana line to a place about three miles west of his Ohio farm. There he carried on

agricultural pursuits until 1861, when he returned to Dixon township, of which locality he was a resident until the time of his death, December 21, 1870. He was a successful agriculturist and a lover of fine stock, making a specialty of the breeding of high-grade horses, cattle and sheep. His wife was a native of Dixon township and the daughter of Levi and Sophia (Barkdull) Gard. Her father was born in North Carolina and became one of the pioneer settlers of Preble county, locating in Dixon township in 1806. Her mother was a native of Pennsylvania and belonged to one of the old Dutch families of the Keystone state. By the marriage of George W. Oser and Phoebe Gard nine children were born, of whom five are living, namely: John G.; Mary J., the widow of John O'Neil, of Dixon township; David, a merchant of Kirksville, Missouri; Lucinda, the wife of John Gennebeck, of Kokomo, Indiana; and William N., a farmer of Boston township, Wayne county, Indiana.

In taking up the personal history of John G. Oser we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in Preble county. His elementary education was acquired in the common schools and was supplemented by study in Miami University at Oxford, where he was pursuing his education at the time of the inauguration of the civil war. One hundred and twenty-seven students in that institution put aside their text books and enlisted, forming Company C of the Twentieth Ohio Infantry, but Mr. Oser's services were not accepted, and, the college being closed, he returned to his home. On the 5th of June, 1862, he was joined in the bonds of matrimony to Miss Lucinda Paddock, and after his marriage located on a farm of one hundred and sixty

acres in Dixon township, continuing the operation of his land until 1864, when he again attempted to enlist and this time became a member of Company H, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, on the 5th of May. The regiment was mustered in for one hundred days' service at Camp Dennison and proceeded thence to Kelton barracks at Cincinnati, where Mr. Oxer was detailed for service in the commissary department, in which capacity he was engaged until the time of his discharge on the 2d of September, 1864.

After being mustered out our subject returned home, and in 1865 traded his land in Dixon township for a farm in Jackson township, to which he removed, there residing until 1871, when he purchased another farm of seventy-six acres. It was his place of abode until 1884, and during that time he extended its boundaries by additional purchases until it embraced four hundred and fifty acres. When his son Orange returned from school in 1883 they began conducting a butchering business on the farm and continued there for a year, after which they removed to Richmond, Indiana, carrying on the same business for four years. The father then sold out and returned to the farm, but his efforts have been by no means confined to agricultural lines. In 1892 he organized the Whitewater Valley Canning Company and built the plant at New Paris, Ohio. In this enterprise he is associated with J. S. Middaugh as partner, and the enterprise has proven a substantial success. In 1899 Mr. Middaugh sold his interest to Mr. Oxer, who soon afterward admitted his son-in-law, John P. Deardorff, to a partnership in the business.

The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Oxer has been blessed with three children: Orange E.,

Rosa Lee, and Elmira P. The last named became the wife of John P. Deardorff. The elder daughter is a graduate of the Normal School at Richmond, Indiana, also of the State University at Bloomington, that state, which conferred upon her the degree of Bachelor of Arts, and then she entered Cornell University for post-graduate work; but after a year was obliged to leave that institution on account of ill health. Later she continued his studies at Hiram College, at Hiram, Ohio, and subsequently matriculated in the Medical College at Cleveland, where she was graduated, at the head of a class of forty-four students. In the succeeding autumn she was assigned to duty by the Christian Woman's Board of Missions, to Mahoba, India, and is now practicing there. Her assignment was made in November, 1896.

In his political views Mr. Oxer has always been a stalwart Republican. For many years he was township clerk and for seventeen years was clerk of the elections. He is a member of the Colonel Marker Post, No. 656, G. A. R., of New Paris, and is a member of the Christian church. He withholds his support from no movement which is calculated to advance the material, social, educational or moral interests of the community, and for three years effectively served on the school board. His career has been one of public activity in the business world, of faithfulness in private life and of fidelity as a citizen. Over his record there falls no shadow of wrong or suspicion of evil, and his life is well worthy of emulation.

JOHN C. RINER.

Among those who are devoting their energies to farming and stock-breeding in Preble county is John C. Riner, of Gratis

township. He was born April 7, 1848, on the farm which is still his home. His grandfather, John Riner, was a native of the Old Dominion, born near Martinsburg, Virginia, about 1780. In 1805 he removed to Ohio, taking up his abode in Gratis township, Preble county. His death occurred there on section 14, in the year 1840. He was twice married, his first union being with Virginia Huffman, a native of the state whose name she bore. They had two daughters—Sarah and Catherine, the latter being the mother of Milton, Nilson and Judge John Riner Sayler. Milton Sayler, deceased, served two terms in congress from the third district. Nilson Sayler and Judge John Riner Sayler at present are one of the best law firms of Cincinnati, Ohio. John Riner's second wife was Mary Osborn, of Shepardsburg, Virginia, and she died in 1873, at the advanced age of eighty-three years. She was the mother of seven children, of whom four are living: Mrs. Julia Ann Chrisman, who is living near Eaton, at the advanced age of eighty-four; Henry, the father of our subject; Wesley, a retired farmer of Morrison, Illinois, who is living there, at the age of seventy-nine, and has two children; and Rebecca, the wife of Perry Rinehart, who resides near Eaton.

Henry Riner, the father of our subject, was born on the farm adjoining that upon which he yet resides, February 5, 1819. His parents had made the journey westward in 1814, in the usual emigration style, with a covered wagon and four horses. The father purchased three hundred and thirty-seven acres of land of Alexander Pugh and was one of the pioneer settlers of the community. Amid the wild scenes of pioneer life Henry Riner was reared and early be-

came familiar with the arduous task of developing and improving the property. He wedded Elizabeth Chrisman, who was born December 10, 1822, on the farm adjoining the Riner home on the north. Their marriage occurred in the latter part of March, 1844. Mrs. Riner was a daughter of John and Susanna (Fishburn) Chrisman, of North Carolina, who were among the early settlers of Preble county. Daniel Chrisman, the maternal grandfather of our subject, came to Preble county about 1785, bringing with him his wife and their first child, who was the grandfather of our subject. They were of Presbyterian faith and were farming people. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Riner were born three children, two sons and a daughter, namely: Susie, who was born February 21, 1845, and is the wife of Dr. Quinby, a physician of Omaha, Nebraska; John C., of this review; and Charles W., who was born February 7, 1854, and is now engaged in business as a real estate and coal dealer in Cheyenne, Wyoming. - He has been married three times and has four children.

John C. Riner spent the first nine years of his life in Preble county, and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Butler county, but at the age of twenty years he returned and was married to Miss Lizzie A. Speer, on the 18th of June, 1873. She was born at Seven Mile, in Butler county, September 26, 1851, and is a daughter of Jaques and Aurelia (Hawley) Speer, both of whom are now deceased. They began their domestic life upon a farm of one hundred and sixty acres, and their home has been blessed with the presence of seven children: Charles Hawley, who is now twenty-six years of age; Harry J., who was born in May, 1876;

Edward Johnson, who was born in August, 1878; Clifford Chrisman, who was born in November, 1880; Nellie, born December 31, 1884; Edith, who was born in August, 1889; and Glenn, who was born in March, 1893. Mr. Riner follows general farming, making a specialty of the raising of corn, wheat and tobacco. In 1899 he had one hundred acres of wheat, making an average of twenty-two bushels per acre, and forty-five hundred bushels of corn from seventy-five acres, while twelve acres were planted to tobacco, yielding thirteen thousand pounds. He also raises hogs, horses, cattle, sheep and mules and breeds them all. He has twenty-one horses, mules and jacks. His hogs are of the Duroc Jersey breed, of which he has some very fine specimens, annually selling from fifty to seventy-five head. His cattle are short-horns, and he keeps on hand from fifty to one hundred head of Oxford Down sheep. He has one of the best farms in this fertile section of Ohio. In 1879 he began the erection of his present home, a commodious and substantial residence. His barn was built by his father fifty years ago. The place is well improved and everything about the farm is kept in first-class condition.

Mr. Riner is a Republican in his political affiliations, and has served for six years and one month as a county commissioner. His wife is a member of the Presbyterian church. They have an interesting family of children, of whom they may well be proud. They enjoy the hospitality of many of the best homes in the community, and have a very large circle of friends. Mr. Riner has met with very creditable success in his business dealings, his work having been carried on along well defined lines of labor, guided by sound judgment and characterized by sterling honesty.

JOHN ANDERSON GRUVER.

A leading representative of the mercantile interests of Eaton is John A. Gruver, whose name introduces this record. He was born in the city of Greenville, Darke county, Ohio, January 15, 1843, and is a son of John A. and Elizabeth (Bowman) Gruver. Both parents were natives of the Keystone state, but were married in Greenville, Ohio, about 1835. The father was born in 1809 and became a shoemaker and farmer, following those pursuits until within ten years of his death. He spent the last decade of his earthly pilgrimage in retirement from business cares and died in Plymouth, Indiana, in 1894. His first wife died in Greenville in 1857, and he also survived his second wife. Six children were born of the first union, namely: Mrs. Katherine Chase, who is living in Jackson, Michigan; Joseph, who follows farming near Eldorado, Preble county; John A., of this review; William B., a farmer of Plymouth, Indiana; Amanda, the wife of Benjamin Fritz, of Eaton; and Henry M., of Eaton.

John A. Gruver is indebted to the public school system of Greenville, for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. He was reared on a farm until more than sixteen years of age, when he was apprenticed to learn the harness-maker's trade and that of carriage-trimmer. He was thus employed at the time of the inauguration of the civil war, and, putting aside all personal considerations, he enlisted, on the 30th of April, 1861, joining the "boys in blue" of Company C, Thirteenth Ohio Infantry, in which he served for three years and four months. His duties called him to West Virginia, where he remained until the beginning of 1862, when his regiment joined the Cumber-

land Army under command of Generals Buell, Rosecrans and Sherman. He participated in the battles of Rich Mountain, Carnifex Ferry, Virginia; Shiloh, Pittsburg, Perryville, Stone River, Silver Springs and Chickamauga. He was severely wounded at the battle of Stone River and had his first and second fingers and part of his left hand shot off. He was afterward on detached duty, performing clerical work in the quartermaster's department until honorably discharged in September, 1864. He was a loyal soldier, always found at his post of duty, and his military record is one of which he has every reason to be proud.

Mr. Gruver returned to West Alexandria, where he lived at the time of his enlistment, and there resumed his trade. Soon afterward he went to Arcanum, thence to Greenville and subsequently to Winchester, Indiana, coming from that place to Eaton. He engaged in merchandising on his own account in this city from 1867 until 1896. He then went to Marion, Indiana, where he carried on the harness and the carriage trade for a year and a half, when he sold out and returned to Eaton. For a year thereafter he was not connected with any business enterprise, but in June, 1899, he opened the Racket store on Barrow street, where he carried a large stock of queensware, china, granite, tin and wooden ware, notions and novelties. He also carried a full line of light hardware, whips, robes and blankets. His stock is valued at about three thousand dollars and he employs from two to eight clerks according to the season.

Mr. Gruver was married in Greenville, Ohio, October 18, 1864, to Miss Emma Hervey, a native of West Alexandria, Preble county, a daughter of Samuel Hervey, who was a bookkeeper by profession and died

in California while engaged in mercantile pursuits there. Mr. and Mrs. Gruver had but one child, Paul Halsey, now twenty-seven years of age. The mother died March 11, 1894, and Mr. Gruver afterward married Mrs. Mary Wysong, a native of this county. She had four children by her first marriage, one of whom is still with her mother. Mr. Gruver is an active member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, being past grand and past chief patriarch of the fraternity. He is also a member of the Grand Army of Republic, is a strong Republican and served for nine years as postmaster of Arcanum and also as a member of the city council of Greenville, Ohio. His son is also a member of the order of Knights of Pythias, and is engaged in business with his father. He is a young man of strong mentality and takes a great deal of interest in amateur theatricals. His social and business qualities render him popular in both circles. Mr. Gruver receives attention and recognition for his army services. He may be truly called a self-made man for his prosperity is the crown of his own labors. Industry has been the golden key that has opened to him the portals of success, and perseverance, careful attention to details in his business and a determination that has overcome all obstacles are numbered among his chief characteristics. Success in life is something to be proud of and the world is better for every successful man.

ANDREW HIESTAND.

In modern ages, and to a large extent in the past also, banks have constituted a vital part of organized society, and governments, both monarchical and popular, have depended upon them for material aid in times

of depression and trouble. Their influence has extended over the entire world, and their prosperity has been the barometer which has unfalteringly indicated the financial status of all nations. Of this important branch of business Andrew Hiestand is a worthy representative. He is the president of the Preble County National Bank, and has contributed toward making this institution one of the most reliable institutions of the kind in western Ohio.

Mr. Hiestand is numbered among the native sons of the Buckeye state, his birth having occurred in Montgomery county on the 14th of March, 1827. The family is of German lineage. The father of our subject was John Hiestand, a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, who emigrated westward in 1812, becoming a resident of Montgomery county, Ohio. There he spent his remaining days, passing away in 1858. He was a cabinetmaker and farmer and very successful in his business affairs. He married Miss Barbara Cochran, who was of Scotch lineage and died in 1871. She was the mother of nine children, four of whom yet survive, namely: Elizabeth, who is living in Warren county, Ohio; Jacob R., of Wisconsin; Julia B., of Warren county, Ohio; and Andrew.

Mr. Hiestand, of this review, pursued his education in the local schools and in early life learned the cabinet-maker's trade, which he followed for some time. Subsequently he conducted for six years a saw and grist mill in Montgomery county. During the period of the civil war he was very active in taking care of the soldiers' families and contributed most liberally toward their support. After the death of the brother, H. C. Hiestand, in 1884, he came to Eaton to superintend the banking business, which he and

his brother had organized, and which had been conducted by the brother for a number of years under the firm name of H. C. Hiestand & Company. In 1894 the business was reorganized under the national banking system and the name of the Preble County National Bank was assumed. Of this institution our subject has since been the president.

The efforts of Mr. Hiestand have by no means been confined to one line. He has been the president of the board of water works since its organization, and it was he who conceived the idea of transforming the fourteen acres of land surrounding the water works into a beautiful park that may be enjoyed by the citizens in Eaton for generations to come. He has also been an active factor in the upbuilding and material advancement of the city by erecting an excellent class of buildings here, including the St. Clair office building, in which enterprise he was associated with several other prominent business men of the town. He is certainly a public-spirited and progressive man, and his labors have secured marked advancement along social, educational, material and moral lines in the city of his adoption.

Mr. Hiestand was united in marriage to Miss Ruth Witridge, a daughter of Dr. Witridge, of New Paris, Ohio. They enjoy the hospitality of the best homes in Eaton, and their circle of friends is very extensive. Mr. Hiestand has been a successful man in business affairs and his success has been the result of earnest and persistent effort in the line of honorable and manly dealing. His aim has always been to attain the best and he has always carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken. His life has marked a steady growth and now he

is in possession of an ample competence, and more than all, has that contentment that comes from a consciousness of having lived for a noble purpose.

JOHN SCHNEIDER.

As a young man this gentleman came to America, and without capital started out in a strange land to overcome the difficulties and obstacles in the path to prosperity. His youthful dreams have been realized, and in their happy fulfillment he sees the fitting reward of his earnest toil. After many years of active labor he is now living a retired life at a pleasant home in Euphemia, Ohio.

Mr. Schneider was born in Germany, May 25, 1819, and is a son of Jacob and Agnes M. Schneider, who spent their entire lives as farming people in that country, where the father died at the age of eighty-seven years, the mother at the age of eighty-three. The maternal grandmother lived to the advanced age of ninety-four years. Our subject is the second in order of birth in a family of three children, and the only one to come to America. His brother George died at the age of about forty years, and his sister Agnes at about the same age.

At the age of fourteen years John Schneider commenced learning the baker's trade, and after serving a two years' apprenticeship he worked as a journeyman in his native land for one year. He then went to Switzerland, where he was similarly employed for a time. On leaving there he returned to Germany in 1847, but after spending one week with his family he sailed for the new world. He landed in New York city and proceeded at once to Cincinnati, where he was first

employed in a pork-packing establishment, but later found work at his trade, remaining there until 1850, when he came to Preble county. For about three years he was engaged in the bakery business at West Alexandria, and in June, 1856, took up his residence in Lewisburg, whence he removed, in 1882, to Euphemia, where he has since made his home. In January, 1857, his bakery and its entire contents were destroyed by fire, and he came very nearly losing his life. Later in the same year, with the assistance of friends, he erected a building and again engaged in the bakery business, until 1861, when he built a hotel and carried it on successfully until 1881. He then sold out and bought his present comfortable home at Euphemia, where he is now living retired, enjoying the fruits of former toil.

On the 24th of January, 1853, Mr. Schneider married Miss Mary Schlotterbeck, who was born in Germany, November 5, 1833, and came to the United States with her parents in 1847, first locating in Pennsylvania. Later she removed to Washington county, Ohio, from there to Montgomery county, and to Preble county in 1852. To Mr. and Mrs. Schneider were born four children, three sons and one daughter, namely: John, now engaged in business in New York city; Frank, in business in Dayton, Ohio; Fred, who is on the board of trade in Chicago; and Bertha, at home.

Politically Mr. Schneider was first a Republican but is now a Democrat, and religiously both he and his wife are members of the Lutheran church. His course in life has ever been such as to command the confidence and respect of all with whom he came in contact, and he justly merits the high regard in which he is held by his fellow citizens.

WILLIAM H. DAVIS.

William H. Davis is conducting a large and profitable business as a dealer in fine horses at West Elkton, and is recognized as a very enterprising and capable business man whose systematic methods and honorable policy have secured to him a place among the well-to-do citizens of his community. He was born in Union county, Indiana, July 11, 1854, and was a son of Thomas Clarkson Davis, a farmer who emigrated to this state from North Carolina. Henry Davis, the paternal grandfather of our subject, was also a native of North Carolina, but in early life removed from that state to Indiana, where he became a wealthy agriculturist. The farm which he owned is still in the possession of, and is occupied by, his sons and daughters. The grandfather wedded a Miss Macy and they had eight children—four sons and four daughters—of whom two sons and the daughters are yet living. Five of the number were married and had families. Henry Davis died on the old family homestead in Indiana, when about sixty-five years of age, and his widow long survived him. He started out upon his business career empty-handed and steadily worked his way upward, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles in his path until he had acquired a handsome property, leaving to his family at his death a good estate. Thomas Clarkson Davis was reared in Indiana. Arriving at years of maturity he married Rebecca Blanchard, who also was a native of North Carolina. Their marriage occurred in 1845, and at the home of their son, William H., was celebrated their golden wedding in October, 1895. Their union was blessed with nine children, of whom seven reached adult age, namely: Angeline, the wife of Isaac L.

Taylor, died in Denver, Colorado, at the age of fifty years, leaving nine children; Laura is the widow of Enoch E. Stubbs, and lives near Frankfort, Indiana, with her daughter and two sons; William H. is the next of the family; Elwood resides in West Elkton and has three children; Florence is the wife of Joseph Elliott, of Sterling, Kansas, and has three children; Albert resides in Stafford county, Kansas, and has eight children; and Huldah is the wife of Max Julian, of Hudson, Colorado, by whom she has seven children. The father of this family resided for brief periods in the states of Indiana, Ohio, Iowa and Kansas, and devoted his life to the pursuit of agriculture. In the last named state he resided at the time of his death. In politics he was first a Republican and afterward, on account of his views on the temperance question, supported the Prohibition party. He took an active interest in public affairs, believing most fully that it was the duty of every citizen to labor toward securing good officials. He died January 18, 1899, at the age of seventy-five years, and is still survived by his widow, who is now in her seventy-sixth year.

William H. Davis pursued his elementary education in the public schools of Indiana and Iowa. He was fifteen when his parents removed to New Providence, Hardin county, Iowa, and there completed a high-school education. The work of the farm early became familiar to him, and from early spring until crops were harvested in the autumn he assisted in the labors of the field. He was married December 13, 1877, to Rebecca Taylor, a native of Preble county, Ohio, and a daughter of Lewis and Martha (Stubbs) Taylor, both of whom are living, together with five of their six children.

Mr. Davis came to Preble county in 1877 and engaged in farming until 1890, since which time he has devoted his energies exclusively to the purchase and sale of horses. From childhood he has been a lover of fine horses and has always dealt in them to a greater or less extent. With the exception of the period which he spent in Denver, Colorado, for the benefit of his wife's health, he has resided in this section of the country since 1877. He has had many high-grade horses and has succeeded in selling them for good prices, selling one horse for six hundred dollars. He sold a fine matched team to the Honorable J. W. Goudey, minister of the United States to France, and received over a thousand dollars for the pair. He usually has from fifteen to twenty head at a time, and within a year he has sold horses to the value of eighteen or twenty thousand dollars. He personally superintends the business, making all of the purchases and sales himself. He is an excellent judge of fine horses, understands the treatment they should receive and carries on the business along progressive lines, so that his labors have been crowned with a gratifying degree of success. Few if any have won a higher reputation in this line of business than Mr. Davis, who is especially well known to dealers throughout the country, enjoying a very enviable reputation in stock circles.

Mr. and Mrs. Davis are members of the Friends' society. They have resided at their present home during the greater part of their married life. Having no children of their own, they have reared two children of other people—Maud and Lewis Taylor, to whom they have given the most loving care and attention. Excellent educational privileges have been afforded them, and they are now

students in Earlham College at Richmond, Indiana. A niece, Mamie Taylor, now a maiden of twelve years, is also living with Mr. and Mrs. Davis. The great kindness of their hearts has prompted them to bestow parental attention where otherwise it would have been denied. They are certainly deserving of the filial gratitude of their adopted children. Their many excellencies of character are well known, and while their lives are free from ostentation they have ever enjoyed the warm confidence and regard which is extended to true worth.

ADAM EHRHARDT.

One of the prosperous and progressive farmers of Somers township, Adam Ehrhardt, has so ably conducted his business interests that success has crowned his efforts and given him a place among the substantial citizens of his community. He was born in Cincinnati, March 22, 1850. His father, Adam Ehrhardt, Sr., was a native of Germany, who married Rebecca Vogel, a native of Pennsylvania and of German parentage. She was reared, however, in Cincinnati, and in that city her marriage was celebrated, about 1846. His father's birth occurred in 1821, and his mother's in 1823. At the age of twenty-two years his father had sought a home in the new world, reaching America without capital. His brother, who had crossed the briny deep to New Orleans some years previously, had sent him money in order to pay his passage. He did not long tarry in the Crescent city, however, but started north for Cincinnati. He followed his profession of landscape gardening and reared his three sons in the same business. Fred and Henry Ehrhardt, brothers of our subject, are still engaged in that occupa-

tion. The mother survives her husband and is now living in Cincinnati, with her three daughters. All of her six children are married and have families. The enterprise of the father brought to him a comfortable competence, and the mother is now well situated financially, so that she has been able to assist her children in getting started in life. Recently she gave to her son, Adam, two thousand dollars.

At his parental home our subject spent the days of his boyhood and youth, becoming an able assistant to his father. He was married in 1876 to Miss Minnie Seeger, and to them have been born the following children: Fred, who died at the age of six years; Ada A., at home; Ollie, the wife of Winfred Johnson, by whom she has John, Levi, Rebecca, Carrie, Lida and Edmond.

Mr. Ehrhardt is now the owner of two valuable farms, one comprising one hundred and sixty-three acres, the other one hundred and sixty-seven acres. He has a good house and barn upon the farm which he rents, and his own fine new residence is a two-story frame dwelling, which he erected in 1890. It stands on a natural building site and can be seen for several miles. All of his improvements are in keeping with those of a model farm and everything about the place is neat in appearance, indicating the careful supervision of the owner. He raises the crops best adapted to this climate, making a specialty of wheat and corn, and annually harvests about two thousand bushels of wheat and three thousand bushels of corn. He gives considerable attention to the raising of hogs and finds that a profitable source of income. He has Poland China hogs upon the farm and Duroc Jerseys, and sells annually about one hundred and fifteen head. He also has graded Shropshire sheep

and ten horses. His life has been an industrious one and indolence and idleness are utterly foreign to his nature. He has accumulated a fine property, to which has been added a handsome sum of money. When this sturdy farmer, in his working clothes, deposited two one-thousand-dollar bills in the bank recently the clerk was quite surprised; but Mr. Ehrhardt has carefully husbanded his resources, and his enterprise, supplemented by economy and good management, has brought to him deserved success. His political support is given to the Democracy and for three years he has capably served as road commissioner. As a citizen he is public spirited and progressive, withholding his support from no measure or movement which he believes would prove of public benefit.

BENJAMIN D. MOSES.

The task of writing the biography of a living representative man is a most difficult one, because the prevailing modesty of American manhood shrinks from personal prominence and invariably discourages even the most friendly attempt to uncover the secret of success or popularity in life. The subject of this sketch is a typical representative of western enterprise and progress who has won success through well directed business efforts. He is now engaged in business in Eaton as an insurance, real-estate and loan agent and is meeting with creditable and gratifying success along those lines.

Mr. Moses was born in German township, Montgomery county, Ohio, November 30, 1845, and is a son of Robert and Mary (Christ) Moses, the former a native of Augusta county, Virginia, and the latter of Rockingham county, that state. They were

married in the Old Dominion and soon afterward emigrated westward, taking up their abode in Montgomery county, Ohio. The father became the owner of a fine farm in German township and was regarded as one of the leading agriculturists of his community. He was a man of fair education, possessing excellent judgment, and was universally esteemed for his integrity and straightforward dealing. Throughout almost his entire residence in Montgomery county he held either a township or county office, and no trust reposed in him was ever betrayed. In 1865 he removed to Preble county, locating at Enterprise, Lanier township, where he engaged in merchandising. He died in that village in 1875, at the age of seventy-five years. His wife survived him for several years, passing away at the age of seventy-nine. She was born in 1802. The father was of English descent and the family was established in America by the great-grandfather of our subject, whose son John was the grandfather of Benjamin D. Moses. Twelve children were born unto Robert and Mary Moses, of whom four sons and three daughters are yet living, three having died in infancy, while two died after reaching mature years. Those who still survive are: John B., a resident of Saginaw, Michigan; Henry C., who is a retired farmer of Germantown, Ohio; Elizabeth, who is now Mrs. McKean and resides in Winchester, Preble county; Mrs. Eliza Lane, of Olathe, Kansas; Columbus, a real-estate dealer of Dayton, Ohio; and Mrs. Lydia Huffman, also of Dayton.

Benjamin D. Moses of this review is the youngest of the family of twelve children. He obtained a common school education, receiving his first instruction in a little log schoolhouse in German township. At

the age of sixteen he became an apprentice to the tinner's trade in Franklin, Warren county, Ohio, and while so employed he was prompted by a spirit of patriotism, and though under the age of eighteen years and without the knowledge of his parents, he tendered his services in the defense of the Union, and on the 30th day of September, 1863, he was mustered into the service as a private in Company B, Fourth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry, and continued at the front in active service until the close of the war without missing a single day's duty, and was honorably discharged July 15, 1865. He participated in the Atlanta campaign, including the raid under General Kirkpatrick entirely around the city of Atlanta before its capture. On this expedition the federal troops were entirely surrounded at Lovejoy Station and they cut their way out with a sabre. They were five days and nights on that expedition without stopping to cook anything or to sleep. They ate their hard-tack while riding along and fed their horses while on the march from nose-bags carried for the purpose. This was one of the most exciting campaigns of the war.

On the left flank of the army in front of Atlanta Mr. Moses was one of ten selected by Captain Cilley to make a reconnoissance into the enemy's country. After they had gone for several miles they suddenly came upon a detachment of mounted rebels, who were seen only by the captain, because of the dense undergrowth of the timber through which they were traveling. The captain gave the command to halt and ordered his men to fire. They not seeing the enemy hesitated, and were urged by a second order to fire. Mr. Moses fired his revolver in the direction the captain was looking and then dashed the spurs into his horse's side and

followed the bullet; and, hearing shuffling of horses' feet ahead of him, he fired again and continued in pursuit of some thirty or forty rebels, chasing them until recalled by his captain. There were but these two shots fired. It was all over in a minute, but that minute was a desperate one and gave evidence of Mr. Moses' presence of mind and unfaltering courage under trying circumstances. Almost sooner than it takes to tell the story the sally was over and the rebels were on the dead run for safety.

One other incident of Mr. Moses' service may with interest be here related. On one occasion he was sent out to carry dispatches, and on his way during a dark night he came to a pond of water through which his road passed. The pond was covered with a thin crust of ice. Before crossing he halted, and hearing from the other side the splashing of horses' hoofs in the water and the breaking of the ice, he feared the party might be a bushwhacker, at least an enemy, and he decided to await the approach of the rider and capture him. When the stranger had approached to within six feet Mr. Moses commanded him to halt and throw up his hands, which command was obeyed very promptly, with the assurance that he was "only a poo' old niggah." Mr. Moses then ordered him to come nearer, and as the stranger did so and the horses were side by side, Mr. Moses threw his arms around the man and found a wooly head and in consequence released the prisoner.

In all the engagements of his regiment Mr. Moses participated, including the great Wilson raid from Gravelly Springs, Alabama, to Macon, Georgia, resulting in the capture of Selma, Alabama, where they charged the enemy's works. They dismounted and found well built and well

planned fortifications. This was an important military movement, and embraced a ride through the heart of the Confederacy, ending only with the close of the war. After the fall of the Confederacy Mr. Moses was one of two men detailed from his company to go in pursuit of Jefferson Davis, and was prevented from doing so only by the entreaties of a sick comrade who begged him to remain with him. The chief regret in all his army experience is that he was not permitted to be one of the party to pursue and capture the president of the Confederacy. He was always ready for scouting duty and was usually placed upon details where courage and coolness were required. He served as regimental postmaster, and, though for this reason was not required to go into battle, yet he took a carbine of a comrade and went on the skirmish line and into the engagement at Selma, Alabama, and participated in all other engagements with his regiment.

The few incidents of the army service rendered by Mr. Moses are related that the reader may gain an idea of some of the experiences which one in army service undergoes.

Returning home after the war, Mr. Moses located with his parents in Enterprise, where he engaged with his father in merchandising. Later he purchased his father's interest and conducted a store alone for a few years, but sold out in 1869 and went to Dayton, where, in connection with his brother, C. C., he engaged in the wholesale dry goods business. As that did not prove to his taste, however, he sold out to his partner and returned to Probler county. Here he purchased the old Shideler farm, in which his wife had an interest, and for fourteen years thereafter made his home on that

place, devoting his energies to its cultivation and improvement. In 1888 he sold that property and came to Eaton, where he has since been engaged in the insurance, loan and real estate business, meeting with creditable success.

In 1868 occurred the marriage of Mr. Moses and Miss Anna Shideler, a daughter of Judge Peter and Catharine Shideler, early residents of Preble county, who are now deceased. Mrs. Moses was educated in the common schools and in the Germantown College. Three children were born of the marriage, but only two are now living: Robert S., who is holding a responsible position with the Flint & Walling Manufacturing Company, of Kendallville, Indiana; and Homer C., a graduate of the Bellevue Medical College, of New York. He enlisted as a private soldier of the One Hundred and Fifty-seventh Indiana Regiment for the Spanish war, and served as such for a few months and was then discharged to be appointed as an assistant surgeon in the United States army. He is now serving as an assistant surgeon in the Philippines. The only daughter of the family, Grace Lucile, died at the age of two years and eight months.

Mr. and Mrs. Moses have been members of the Methodist Episcopal church for more than twenty years and he has long served as an official member and has taken a very active and creditable part in the church work. While living on the farm he served for nine years as a justice of the peace. In politics he is a Republican and is the present honored commander of Mulharen O'Kane Post, No. 3, G. A. R., of Eaton. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias. His life has indeed been upright and honorable, characterized by fidelity to duty in every relation. He is

a gentleman of high moral character, genial and affable in manner, his views of life being broad and comprehensive, and he is independent, genial and public-spirited, admiring all that is best and highest in life.

FRANK M. DAVISSON.

This influential citizen and enterprising agriculturist of Monroe township is the owner of an excellent farm on section 14, and his management of the estate is marked by the scientific knowledge and skill which characterizes the modern farmer. He was born upon that farm, February 21, 1847, and is a worthy representative of an honored pioneer family of this county.

Josiah Davisson, the father of our subject, was born in Harrison county, Virginia, October 6, 1808, but was only eight years of age when brought to Preble county, Ohio, by his father, Josiah Davisson, Sr. The latter was born either in Virginia or New Jersey, about 1743, and became one of the prominent men of Rockingham county, Virginia, where he served as sheriff for a time. In 1816 he came to this county, bringing with him his slaves, whom he set free. He entered land on section 14, Monroe township, where our subject now resides, and where he continued to make his home throughout the remainder of his life, dying there in 1825, at the ripe old age of eighty-one years. Much of the land which he secured from the government is still in the possession of his descendants, our subject owning two hundred and seventy-five acres of the tract. Upon that farm the father of our subject lived until he, too, was called to his final rest in 1863, at the age of fifty-six years. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Hannah Foos, was born in Warren county, Ohio,

February 13, 1819, and came to this county when three years of age with her parents, Jacob and Elizabeth (Roberts) Foos, natives of Pennsylvania. When they located here there were only three houses on the road between Eaton and Greenville, and in one of these lived a horse thief! Mrs. Davison died July 15, 1896, at the age of seventy-seven years, five months and two days. Both she and her husband were of English descent. They were earnest members of the Baptist church, and in politics Mr. Davison was first a Whig and later a Republican. He was quite a prominent and influential man in his community, and was called upon to serve as justice of the peace for sixteen years, and township treasurer twenty-two years. He was the fourth in order of birth in a family of five children who lived to maturity. His brothers, Absalom and Jonathan, were born in Harrison county, West Virginia, the former in 1802, the latter in 1806. Jonathan was also one of the prominent men of this county, and served as a county commissioner and as assessor of Monroe township.

To Josiah and Hannah (Foos) Davison were born five children, of whom our subject is the oldest; Amelia Elizabeth lives with our subject upon the old homestead, they being the only representatives of the family now residents of Preble county; Oscar Fulton is married and is now a prominent attorney of Dayton; Edward Clinton is a physician of that city; and Sarah Alice is a resident of Preble county.

Reared on the home farm Frank M. Davisson acquired his primary education in the district schools. For two years he was a student at the Northwestern Christian University at Indianapolis, now Butler University, of Irvington, Indiana, and for about

three years attended the Michigan University at Ann Arbor, taking a special course in civil engineering. He successfully followed that profession for ten years and for six years served as the surveyor of Preble county—from 1879 to 1885. Since then he has devoted his time and energies to agricultural pursuits. He owns the old homestead of two hundred and seventy-five acres, on section 14, Monroe township, and also fifty-four acres on section 11. His residence, which is one of the finest country homes in the county, was erected by him in 1886, at a cost of six thousand dollars. Upon this place are good and substantial barns and outbuildings, and everything about the farm testifies to the skill and ability of the owner in his chosen calling. He is engaged in general farming, but makes a specialty of stock raising, having upon his place a high grade of Oxford sheep, Poland China hogs and shorthorn cattle. As a progressive and public-spirited citizen he takes an active interest in public affairs and votes the straight Republican ticket. Socially he is a member of Libanus Lodge, No. 80, F. & A. M., of Lewisburg, one of the oldest lodges in the state.

JOHN MEYER.

Among the enterprising and valued citizens which the German empire has contributed to our republic may be mentioned the subject of this sketch, who is one of the prosperous and influential agriculturists of Preble county, being located on section 13, Lanier township. He was born near the city of Bremen, dukedom of Brunswick, Germany, on the 4th of June, 1840, being the son of Garrard and Margaret (Voge) Meyer, who were the parents of ten chil-

dren, four of whom are living at the present time, namely: Annie C., wife of John Heisman, of this county; Henry, who is a carpenter by trade and is a resident of Lexington, Ohio; John, the immediate subject of this review; and Margaret, wife of Detrick Voge, a farmer of Twin township, this county.

The father of our subject was born in Emptinghausen, Germany, in 1811, and grew to maturity in the fatherland, where he learned the trade of cabinetmaker, which he followed prior to his removal to the United States. In 1860 he emigrated to America, in company with three of his children—Alice, now deceased; Margaret; and John, our subject—three others of his children having preceded him, namely: Detrick, now deceased, Anna and Henry.

On his arrival in Preble county Garrard Meyer settled in Lanier township, making his home with his children from this time onward to the hour of his death, which occurred in December, 1870. He was a zealous and devoted member of the Lutheran church and was a man of sterling Christian character, having the esteem and high regard of all who knew him. Margaret (Voge) Meyer, the mother of our subject, was born in Emptinghausen, dukedom of Brunswick, Germany, about the year 1820, being the daughter of John Voge, who was a well-to-do farmer of Germany, where he passed his entire life. The mother of our subject died in her native land in 1856.

John Meyer, to whom this review is dedicated, grew to maturity in his native land, in whose excellent schools he received his educational training. Upon his arrival in Preble county, in September, 1860, he entered the employ of his brother, Detrick, continuing this association until the follow-

ing April, when he was employed as a farm hand by Dr. Nesbit, of West Alexandria, Ohio, for a period of one year; then worked ten months for Jacob Deardoff, of Lanier township; was then employed about three years as a farm hand by a Mr. Halderman; and following this he entered the employ of Detrick Glander, who operated a distillery, remaining thus engaged for three years, when he associated himself with Detrick S. Glander, his brother-in-law, in the purchase of the old home place, where they continued partnership farming operations for three years, when Mr. Glander married and our subject purchased his interest in the farm, where he has ever since continued to reside, bringing to bear much discrimination and most progressive methods in handling the various details of the farm work, and having met with most marked success in his efforts. Since 1891 he has been engaged in buying and shipping tobacco, the raising of which has become quite an important industry in this section, and in this branch of his business he has been successful. To his original purchase Mr. Meyer has added twelve and one-half acres, so that his farm now comprises ninety-four acres, the entire tract being under a high state of cultivation and well improved in every particular. In 1899 Mr. Meyer erected one of the handsome and substantial farm residences of the county, the same being of modern architectural design and of distinctly attractive appearance.

Mr. Meyer was united in marriage to Miss Anna Glander, a daughter of Ludeke Glander, and a sister of John B. Glander, of whom mention is made on another page of this work, and of this union two children have been born—Mary A., who is at the parental home; and Charles, who married

Miss Mary B. Claus, by whom he has one child, Forrest. Charles is a dealer in agricultural implements, and is a young man of marked business ability. Mr. and Mrs. Meyer are active and devoted members of the Lutheran church, in which our subject has served as deacon or elder for a period of about fourteen years. In politics he gives his support to the Democratic party.

GEORGE H. KELLY.

A real estate, loan and insurance agent of Eaton, Ohio, George H. Kelly was born on a farm two miles west of the city, July 2, 1848, his parents being Matthew B. and Nancy Stevens (White) Kelly. His father was a native of Butler county, Ohio, born February 21, 1810, and the mother was born in Alexandria, Campbell county, Kentucky, March 4, 1812. They were married at Alexandria, Kentucky, in June of 1829, moved to Preble county, Ohio, in 1830, and took up a government claim on section 3, Dixon township. They remained on this claim several years, and then purchased a farm on section 32, Washington township, where they remained until death claimed both of them. He died August 25, 1869, and she passed to her reward September 15, 1875. Matthew B. Kelly, during his early residence in Preble county, did much teaming, hauling produce from Eaton to Cincinnati and returning with merchandise from that city for the Eaton merchants. Most of his life, however, was spent in farming, in which he was successful. In their family were seven children, four sons and three daughters, namely: Nancy M., now the wife of John D. Campbell, of Eaton; J. Clinton, who is now living on the home farm; Francis Marion, a farmer of Sugar Valley, Dixon township; George

H.; and Mary Amanda, now the wife of Robert White, of Eaton.

George H. Kelly pursued his education in the public schools of Washington township, and was reared upon the home farm until twenty years of age, when he abandoned the labor of field and meadow to engage in merchandising. He was for ten years connected with the grocery trade in Eaton, and from 1880 until 1884 he was employed in the internal revenue department of the United States government, with headquarters at Dayton, Ohio. In 1885 he began business in his present line as a real estate, loan and insurance agent. He is a man of strong determination, and has carried forward to successful completion whatever he has undertaken. He is widely and favorably known as a reliable business man in Preble county, and since December, 1886, he has been in partnership with Benjamin D. Moses. The firm makes a specialty of fire and cyclone insurance. In the loan department they handle local funds mostly. The business has developed rapidly, and the growth has been a healthful one. They now have a large clientage and their efforts are attended with prosperity. Mr. Kelly is also financially interested in the Electric Light & Ice Manufacturing Company, of Eaton, and for many years has been a director of the Preble County National Bank. His wise counsel has proved an important factor in the successful management of those enterprises and his opinions carry weight in business circles.

On the 20th of December, 1870, Mr. Kelly was married to Miss Alice Emma Rhea, a native of Indianapolis, Indiana, and a daughter of John and Mary Rhea. Her father was a mechanic in early life and later engaged in merchandising, but is now living



Geo. H. Kelly

retired in Eaton. Mrs. Kelly was educated in Richmond, Indiana, and is a lady of superior education, being highly accomplished in music. She is descended from good old Revolutionary stock, and holds membership in the society known as the Daughters of the American Revolution, at Washington. Her great-grandfather, Major William Gray, served as captain of a cavalry company under General Francis Marion, and later was a major on the staff of General Washington. Her ancestors were of German, French and Welsh blood and belonged to early families of America.

In his political views Mr. Kelly has always been a stalwart Republican, although he was reared in the Democratic faith. He has served as a member of the board of city water commissioners since 1898, yet has never been a politician in the sense of office-seeking, preferring to give his time and energies to his business affairs. During his connection with the revenue department of the government, he traveled throughout the third congressional district of Ohio. Socially he is connected with the Masonic fraternity and the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and has been recording secretary of his lodge in the latter for a quarter of a century. He is also a member of the encampment and Patriarchs Militant, ranking as first lieutenant in the latter, his membership in those being at Camden. He was reared in the Baptist church, but both he and his wife are leading members of the Presbyterian church of Eaton, in which he is serving as a member of the board of deacons. He is a liberal contributor to charities and benevolent institutions and has been a prominent factor in the prosperity of Eaton through a long period. Educational, religious and social interests owe their promo-

tion in a considerable degree to him. Thirty years has this city been his home and he is loyally devoted to the public good.

WILSON ROYER.

Sebastian Royer was the progenitor of the Royer family in America. About 1718 he emigrated from Germany and settled in Pennsylvania. The name Royer was originally spelled Reyer or Reier. This ancestor of the Royers settled in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, and here lived and died, his death occurring about 1758 or 1759. He had four sons, the youngest of whom was Amos Royer, who separated himself from his father's church, the Lutheran, and attached himself to the German Baptists or Brethren. He left seven children, viz.: Philip, Christopher, Peter, John, Daniel, Elizabeth and Catherine. Peter Royer, a son of Amos Royer, had two sons—Benjamin and Peter; and five daughters—Catherine, Mary, Martha, Susanna and Elizabeth.

Benjamin Royer lived and died in Pennsylvania, but his brother, Peter Royer, married Anna Roop (also of German lineage) and about 1800 removed to Frederick, now Carroll, county, Maryland; however, he did not remove to Maryland until several years after his marriage. He had a large family. His two oldest children—Catherine and Christian—were born in Pennsylvania. In Maryland there were born the following children: Jesse, Anna, Mary, Peter, Louisa, Lydia, Jehu and Lucinda. Peter died before he was two years of age; Lydia, also, died in her infancy; and Lucinda, also, died young, but not until she was grown. Catherine married Philip Wampler; Christian married Mary Geiman; Jesse married Su-

sanna Eby; and Anna first married John Isett, after whose death she married John Weybright; Mary married Jacob Maring, after whose death she married John Burgard; Louisa married David Englar; and Jehu married Margaret Troxel. All the children have passed away in death. The last survivor was Jesse, who died February 23, 1885, in his eighty-fourth year. He was born in Carroll county, Maryland, in 1801. As a companion and helpmate he chose and married Susanna Eby, a daughter of Christian Eby, of Baltimore, Maryland. Her father belonged to a very old and highly respected family of Maryland, and was a prosperous farmer, who capably managed his business affairs and won thereby a very desirable competence.

In the year 1854 Jesse Royer removed from Maryland to Preble county, Ohio, and took up his abode in Twin township. He was a minister in the German Baptist church and one of the leading representatives of that denomination. He was also an enterprising and progressive farmer and in his business affairs met with gratifying success. His wife preceded him in death, passing away in September of 1878. Unto them were born nine children, and besides rearing their own children they reared two orphan children. Their own children were as follows: Anna Louisa, the wife of John H. Markey, of New Lexington, Preble county; Jane, the wife of E. Roop, of Johnson county, Missouri; Susanna, whose first husband was Abram Stoner, now deceased, and whose present husband is Daniel Houser, with whom she resides in Lordsburg, California; Lavina, the wife of J. A. Ozias, of Johnson county, Missouri; Catherine (deceased) married Peter Ozias; Elizabeth, the wife of Jonas Leedy, of Johnson county,

Missouri; Agnes died aged about thirty-one, unmarried; Jesse married Katie Elliott and resides in Monroe county, Missouri; and Wilson Royer, of whom we now write as the subject of this review.

Wilson Royer was born in Carroll county, Maryland, June 15, 1849, spent the first five years of his life in the state of his nativity and then accompanied his parents on their removal to Preble county. He pursued his education in the common schools and aided in the work of the home farm, and reaching mature years engaged in farming on his own account. He continued in agricultural pursuits until 1891, in which year he came to Eaton, purchased the hardware stock of G. H. Eidson, and embarked in mercantile pursuits. In 1893 Mr. Royer erected what is known as the Eagle block, a substantial two-story brick building, having two fine store rooms on the ground floor. One of these rooms Mr. Royer occupies. He carries a large stock of hardware, seeds and fertilizers, and does a large volume of business. He has never participated to any extent in politics, for he has given his time exclusively to business affairs, and has met with creditable success. He had no special advantages in youth, nor has his success been accomplished by means of extraordinary talent or genius, but by means of industry, frugality, enterprise and keen discrimination. By means of ceaseless toil and earnest endeavor has he attained a marked degree of success in business affairs. Mr. Royer has gained the respect and confidence of his fellow citizens, and his worth as a man and citizen is widely acknowledged. He belongs to that class of men who look beyond the exigencies of the moment to the future and give their support to those measures tending to the im-

mediate as well as the future welfare of the race.

On the 21st of September, 1876, Mr. Royer was united in marriage to Miss Mabel Homan, a daughter of Vincent Homan, and a member of one of the old and respected families of Preble county. Nine children have been born of their union, eight of whom are living, namely: Jesse Homan, Charles W., Vinnie M., Fannie N., Edna S., Ruth E., Robert H. and Carl James. Grace died at the age of thirteen years. Mr. and Mrs. Royer are widely and favorably known, and their family are numbered among the representatives of Eaton.

JACOB W. TRONE.

This well-known farmer and influential citizen of Monroe township, Preble county, residing on section 10, was born near Hagerstown, Washington county, Maryland, May 3, 1848, and is a son of Abram and Sarah A. (Wishard) Trone, both natives of Pennsylvania. The father was born and reared near Fredericksburg, his father being engaged in farming there. During his early life the former followed the occupation of miller, but later turned his attention to agricultural pursuits. In 1852 he removed from Maryland to Preble county, Ohio, locating on the farm in Monroe township, where our subject now resides. In connection with farming he bought and shipped stock. He was a Democrat in politics, was well and favorably known and was elected the constable of his township. He died at the age of forty-eight years, but his wife is still living, at the age of eighty-one, and now makes her home in West Manchester, this county. Her father was also a native of Pennsylvania and a farmer by occupation,

owning and operating a large tract of land where Waynesboro now stands.

To Abram and Sarah A. (Wishard) Trone were born eight children, of whom only four are now living, our subject being the oldest of these, though the fourth in order of birth in the family. Rachel is the wife of Henry Kisling, of Nebraska. Abraham is a resident of Wyoming. James B. is represented on another page of this volume. Alice, the oldest of the family, died at the age of three years; George was killed at Monroe Cross Roads, North Carolina, while a soldier of the civil war. Mary died at the age of eight years, and John at the age of four years.

The subject of this sketch was only four years old when brought by his parents to Preble county, and his education was acquired in the school of district No. 2, section 10, Monroe township. As soon as large enough to be of any assistance he commenced to aid his father in the operation of the home farm, and has continued to devote his energies to its cultivation and further improvement up to the present time. He owns one hundred and four acres of land and engages in general farming. He is also general agent for the Loudenback Company's fertilizers in Preble and a part of Miami and Montgomery counties.

Mr. Trone was married, December 28, 1870, to Miss Mary Crisler, a native of Darke county, Ohio, and a daughter of Adam and Elizabeth (Brown) Crisler. Her father was born in Preble county and was a son of William Crisler, a native of Virginia and one of the early settlers of Monroe township, this county. Her mother was also born here, as was her father, George Brown, while the latter's father, William Brown, was a native of Germany, and a

pioneer of Preble county. Adam Crisler died at the age of sixty-three years. He was married three times and by his first union had six children, of whom Mrs. Trone was the third in order of birth. She was about seven years old when her father returned to Preble county, where she grew to womanhood and attended school.

To Mr. and Mrs. Trone have been born the following children: Clarence A. and Myrtle, both at home; Sada, who married O. P. Wolverton, of Castine, Darke county, and has one child, Irene; Minnie, who married William Buck, the principal of the Eaton high school, and has one son, Marquis Augustus; Winson O., a resident of Springfield, Ohio; William B., who is attending school; and Sylvia, at home. All were born on the old homestead in Monroe township.

By his ballot Mr. Trone supports the men and measures of the Democratic party and has been called upon to serve as a trustee of Monroe township three terms, the duties of which office he discharged in a most creditable and satisfactory manner. He is an active member of the Christian church of West Manchester, and is now serving as a trustee of the same.

SAMUEL E. MORTON.

Actively identified with the stock raising interests of Preble county is Samuel Elmer Morton, of Camden, and his name is also well known in connection with political interests. He was born in Dixon township, this county, on the 2d of February, 1859, and is descended from one of the old New Jersey families. His grandfather, Benjamin Morton, was a native of that state, born about 1788. Emigrating westward, he took

up his residence in Clinton county, Ohio, in 1811, making the journey on foot. His people were poor and he had to depend entirely upon his own efforts for whatever he secured and enjoyed in life. He was married in Clinton county, about 1815, to Hannah Jennings, and with one or two of their children removed, about 1818, to Preble county, locating in Israel township. As the years passed the family circle enlarged. They were the parents of eight sons and five daughters, all of whom reached mature years, with the exception of Mary D., who died when a young lady. Of their twelve children ten were married, and John Morton reared a large family of nine children. He removed to Edgar county, Illinois, where three of his brothers and his sister, Sarah, also located. The father of these children died about 1858, and his wife passed away some years previously.

Hezekiah Morton, the father of our subject, was born in Israel township, Preble county, August 27, 1827. He married Hannah J. Van Skiver, who was born in Israel township, their marriage taking place in 1852. They had four children: Minnie, the wife of Clayton Borradaile, who is living on the old Morton farm, where the grandfather built his first log cabin; Sarah J., the wife of Levi Brown, a farmer of Dixon township; Samuel Elmer; and Mary Alice, the wife of Joseph C. Test, of Israel township. The mother died June 16, 1897, at the age of sixty-six years, but the father is still living, residing on one of his six large farms. His success seems almost phenomenal, as it has been acquired entirely through his own well directed efforts. He inherited a few hundred dollars from his father's estate and with that exception all that he owns has been acquired through his

capably directed labors. He served as township trustee and a member of the school board, and is a leading and influential citizen of his community.

Mr. Morton, whose name introduces this review, pursued his education in the Lebanon Normal School, and at the age of eighteen began farming on his own account. Since 1880, however, he has engaged in the breeding and raising of Duroc Jersey swine and is one of the most successful and extensive breeders in this section of the state. He was one of the leading prize winners of the Chicago World's Fair and conducts several sales annually. He has always held these sales in Camden until February, 1900, when he held a sale at Liberty, Indiana. His stock brings very high prices, he having secured two hundred and ninety dollars for a female. Since 1893 Mr. Morton has been associated in business with two partners, Walter Abernathy and E. M. Borradaile. These gentlemen breed and handle about four hundred head of hogs annually and ship them throughout the United States. Mr. Morton owns a valuable farm of one hundred and twenty acres in Israel township, but for sixteen years has made his home in Camden. His business has grown to large proportions and yields to him an excellent financial return.

On the 12th of January, 1881, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Morton and Miss Ella B. Sturgeon, of Allen county, Indiana. Her father, Arthur T. Sturgeon, was born in Ross county, Ohio, in 1838, and was a son of Robert Sturgeon, who was born in Pennsylvania, in 1794, and died in Ross county, Ohio, in 1860. The great-grandfather was William Sturgeon. Robert Sturgeon wedded Mary Briggs and they had ten children, of whom five sons and three

daughters reached mature years, while three are still living—Phœbe A. Martin, of Kansas; Arthur T.; and Samuel H., a resident of Bluffton, Indiana. Arthur T. Sturgeon, the father of Mrs. Morton, wedded Mary R. Lipes, of Allen county, Indiana, the marriage taking place on the 12th of January, 1860. They had two children—Ella B. and James R.—the latter a liveryman of South Whitley, Indiana. The mother died June 12, 1898, at the age of fifty-five years, and was laid to rest in the Eel River cemetery in Allen county. Mr. Sturgeon is still living. He has been a lifelong farmer of Allen county, but in the fall of 1899 sold his property and removed to Camden, where he is living with Mr. and Mrs. Morton, he being a decided favorite with his five grandchildren at that home. He had five brothers in the war, one of whom died from the effects of his army service. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Morton have been born five children—Arlie, Arthur H., Myron, William Leslie and Floyd. They constitute an interesting family and are the life and light of the parents' home.

Mr. Morton is a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity and in his political views is a Republican. He served for one year as a constable, as record clerk for four years and for two terms as mayor of Camden, and in these positions has proved a creditable official, understanding fully the responsibilities devolving upon him and meeting every obligation in the most honorable and trustworthy manner. For several years he has been the secretary of the American Jersey Record Association and for five years he has served as county commissioner. He has always been prominent in public affairs and no one has been more actively or commendably interested in the welfare and

development of this section of the state. He is a man of enterprise, positive character, indomitable energy, strict integrity and liberal views, and has been fully identified with the growth and prosperity of Preble county. His life is exemplary in many respects and he has the esteem of his friends and the confidence of those who have had business relations with him.

CHARLES PETER THUM.

The fitting reward of a well spent life and an honorable business career is a period of retirement in which to enjoy the fruits of former toil. This has been vouchsafed to Mr. Thum, who is now resting from his labors, having in former years acquired a competence that now supplies him with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life.

He was born in Wurtemberg, Germany, on the 12th of May, 1829. His father, Ludwig F. Thum, was a native of the same locality and died when our subject was only four years of age. He was born in 1770 and was a good business man, but incurred failure during the war of 1815, owing to the conditions of the times. He was both a baker and a farmer, and in the community where he resided was recognized as a prominent citizen.

In accordance with the laws of his native land, Charles P. Thum pursued his education in the public schools. He remained in Germany until 1848, when, at the age of nineteen years, he determined to seek a home in the new world, and took passage in a westward-bound sailing vessel that, after a voyage of forty-two days, reached the harbor of New York. His uncle loaned him the money to pay his passage. He had

worked for three years at the wagonmaker's trade in his native land, and, believing that he might better his financial condition in the new world, he availed himself of the opportunity to come to the United States. Making his way to Baltimore, he entered upon an apprenticeship to a tailor, securing the position through an advertisement which he saw in a newspaper. He remained in that city from the fall of 1848 until February, 1851, when he made his way by stage to Cincinnati, where his uncle resided. The latter wished him to attend school, and accordingly he pursued his studies for a few months in that city, after which he entered a wholesale clothing house in Cincinnati. There he learned cutting and remained as a trusted employe with one firm until 1857, during which time, as the result of his industry and economy, he saved sixteen hundred dollars. This he hoped to invest judiciously and looked about him for a favorable location. In August, 1857, he visited Eaton, and, being pleased with the town and its prospects, he purchased the store of A. V. Auter. In 1859 his store was destroyed by fire. He continued, however, in business, in a small way, until he again was enabled to launch out on a larger scale. This he did in 1867, when he erected his present store building and therein conducted a first-class tailoring, clothing and furnishing establishment, until 1894, when he retired, his son, Charles Algert, succeeding to his business. He became a recognized leader in his line, his large and well selected stock and his honorable business methods securing to him a liberal patronage. He soon won a very high reputation in business circles and throughout his active career he enjoyed the confidence and good will of his fellow townsmen.

Mr. Thum was united in marriage on the 27th of December, 1859, to Miss Mary Katherine Gentner, who also was born in Wurtemberg, Germany. They had five children: Charles Albert, who succeeded to his father's business; Mary, Dorothea, Tilly and Carl L. In his political views Mr. Thum was formerly a Republican, but is now independent. He keeps well informed on the issues of the day and is therefore able to give an intelligent reason for his political preferences. Of the Odd Fellows society he is a valued and representative member and is now its treasurer. He was long a member of the Turnverein and is a member of the Universalist church. He has given to his children good advantages and has made for himself a creditable record. From the little German home across the sea he made his way to the new world and entered upon a career which seems most marvelous; yet it is not the outcome of propitious circumstances, but the honest reward of labor, good management, ambition and energy, without which no man can win prosperity.

C. A. THUM.

The merchant-tailoring, clothing and furnishing establishment of which Mr. Thum is now the proprietor is the second oldest store in Eaton, and was established by his father in 1857. Its owner is regarded as one of the most enterprising business men of his native city. His birth occurred here on the 6th of December, 1860, his parents being Charles P. and Mary Katherine (Gentner) Thum, whose record is given above. The public schools afforded him his educational privileges, and his business training was received under the direction

of his father, who was one of the first merchant tailors of Preble county. Mr. Thum began work in his father's establishment when only twelve years of age, and was thoroughly instructed in various branches of the work. In 1876 he went to Cincinnati, where for five years he was employed in a wholesale clothing house. In 1881 he returned to Eaton, but afterward again went to Cincinnati, where he remained for a short time, learning the cutter's trade. He then returned and served as cutter for his father until 1887, when he went to Broken Bow, in Custer county, Nebraska. For five years he was identified with the business interests of that city, and in 1894 he returned to Eaton, succeeding his father in business on the first day of March of that year. He has since successfully conducted the store, doing a large business as a merchant tailor, clothier and furnisher. Many of his patrons are numbered among the leading residents of Eaton and Preble county, the work which he turns out is of a high grade and accords with the newest and best styles.

On the 4th of January, 1888, Mr. Thum was united in marriage to Miss Blanche Smock, a daughter of James Smock, of Union City, Indiana, and to them have been born three children: Florence, Marie and Charles A., Jr. Mr. and Mrs. Thum are well known citizens of Eaton, having a very wide circle of friends. Mr. Thum is a progressive and public spirited man who gives an earnest support to all measures which he believes will prove of public benefit. In business affairs he is thoroughly reliable and trustworthy, and his ability in his chosen line, combined with his laudable energy and resolute purpose, have gained to him a liberal patronage and secured him a comfortable competence.

OLIVER P. BROWN.

Oliver P. Brown, of Camden, is the present secretary of the Building & Loan Association of that place and one of the most prominent citizens of Preble county, holding an enviable place in business, political, social and fraternal circles. He was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, near the city of Dayton, on the 29th of April, 1842. His father, Jason M. Brown, was born in Bucks county, Pennsylvania, on the 14th of January, 1792, and was a miller by trade, following that pursuit in Pennsylvania and at Pennington, New Jersey. While at the latter place he was united in marriage to Miss Mary A. Conrad, a native of New Jersey. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brown were descended from old American families that were founded in the new world in colonial days. Their marriage occurred about 1829, the bride being then eighteen years of age. She was Mr. Brown's second wife. They had ten children—five sons and five daughters—eight of whom reached years of maturity, while two died in infancy. Seven of the number are now living and all are married. In 1850 Jason M. Brown came to Camden, Preble county, Ohio, and in 1864 removed to Franklin, Warren county, this state, where he died in his ninety-third year, retaining his mental faculties unimpaired until the last. His widow is still living and is a well preserved old lady of eighty-nine years.

Oliver P. Brown, whose name introduces this review, pursued his education in the common schools and in early life learned the trade of house and carriage painting, which business he carried on in Camden with excellent success until failing health caused his retirement in 1878. He employed

from two to eight men, according to the season, and did a large and profitable business. At the time of the civil war, however, he put aside all personal considerations in order to aid in the preservation of the government, enlisting at Richmond, Indiana, on the 1st of September, 1861, and becoming a member of Company F, Thirty-sixth Indiana Infantry. He was discharged with the rank of sergeant on the 22d of September, 1864, having for three years faithfully followed the old flag upon southern battle fields and fought for the cause it represented. Upon his return to Camden he resumed work at his trade and was thus actively connected with the industrial interests of the city until 1878. Since 1883 he has been the secretary of the Building & Loan Association, which was organized in 1882, and has capably conducted its affairs. He was also one of the originators of the Electric Light Company and is now its president. He is likewise serving as a notary public, and thus his time is largely occupied with various duties which he faithfully discharges.

On the 25th of February, 1868, in Camden, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Lide Robinson, a daughter of John and Ann (Young) Robinson, both of whom are now deceased. They had one son, Carlos L., who was born in 1869 and died of consumption in 1894. He was a young man of marked ability and strong mentality, and at the age of sixteen was graduated in the high school of Camden. He passed an excellent examination and received a first-class teacher's certificate; but, preferring commercial to professional life, he became his father's bookkeeper and assistant postmaster during the five years in which Mr. Brown filled the office. The latter resigned

the position owing to his son's failing health, as he wished him to be free from the confinement of office life. However, consumption had undermined his constitution and he passed away at the age of twenty-five years, mourned by a large circle of warm friends. The esteem in which he was held throughout the community was shown by the fact that all business houses were closed during the time of the funeral services. Mr. and Mrs. Brown occupy a very pleasant home on Lafayette street, which he erected in 1890. It stands upon the site of the old Robinson homestead, where Mrs. Brown was born and reared and where her parents resided for many years. Her father died there in middle life, leaving a widow with five sons and two daughters, of whom three are yet living, namely: Mrs. Mary E. Thurston, a widow living in Camden; James Harvey Robinson, also of this city, and Mrs. Brown.

A very prominent and valued member of several social organizations, Mr. Brown has been connected with the Odd Fellows society since 1865. He has passed all of the chairs in the local lodge and is the captain of Nonpareil Patriarchs Militant. He also belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and has served for several years as the commander of Reese-Mitchell Post, No. 361, G. A. R. In politics he is a stalwart Republican, and has long been recognized as one of the leaders in the party. He gives close and earnest study to the issues of the day and, therefore, by intelligent argument supports the principles in which he believes. For four terms he served as mayor of Camden, and his administration was indeed progressive and beneficial. No other incumbent has ever received more uniform commendation from the public, and many reforms and improvements which he inaugurated time has shown to be

of incalculable benefit. For twelve years he served as justice of the peace, and his decisions were marked with the utmost impartiality. He resigned that position, however, in 1889, when he was appointed postmaster of Camden, in which office he served for five years. He was also clerk of the township for several years, resigning that position to become postmaster. He is now serving a third term as a member of the city council, and in all these positions he has discharged his duties with the promptness and fidelity that have awakened the warm indorsement of the majority of the citizens. Both Mr. and Mrs. Brown are consistent members and active workers in the Universalist church, in which he has served as trustee, while his wife occupies the position of church clerk. In all his business affairs he is very systematic and methodical, and every duty devolving upon him, either in public or private life, is discharged with strict regard for the ethical relations of man. Surrounded at his home by those who are his warm personal friends, and favorably known by hosts of men who for a third of a century have transacted business with him, his career is one to which his family and friends may refer with just pride. He stands to-day in his mature years a strong man, strong in the consciousness of a well spent life, strong to plan and perform, strong in his credit and good name, and a worthy example for young men to pattern after, as showing what intelligence and probity may accomplish in the way of success in life.

SAMUEL WOLF.

Samuel Wolf is one of the most widely and favorably known men of Preble county, popular among all classes of good citizens.

He is a prominent farmer and is now serving as a trustee of Lanier township, a fact which indicates the confidence and regard reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. He is numbered among Preble county's native sons, his birth having occurred on the 7th of December, 1846, in the township where he now resides. His parents were David and Elizabeth (Shafer) Wolf. In their family were thirteen children, nine of whom are yet living. The father was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1803, and was a son of Michael Wolf, who removed to Preble county, Ohio, when David was but two years of age. A settlement was made a mile and a quarter southwest of West Alexandria, where the grandfather purchased one hundred and sixty acres of government land. Michael Wolf was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, was reared upon a farm there and carried on agricultural pursuits in his native state until his removal to Preble county, in 1805. As already stated, he entered land here and made his home thereon until his death, which occurred in 1852, when he had reached the ripe old age of eighty-six years. In early life he was personally acquainted with George Washington. Upon his father's farm David Wolf was reared to manhood and in the district schools of the neighborhood obtained his education. After he had reached mature years he purchased ninety-seven acres of land adjoining his father's farm and there for many years he carried on agricultural pursuits, adding to his land from time to time as his financial resources increased until he became the owner of a valuable tract of three hundred and seven acres. There he resided until his death, which occurred in 1860. He was a man of considerable prominence and influence and

was held in the highest regard. Never a politician in the sense of office-seeking, he however, was elected to a number of minor township positions. He voted with the Democracy and in his religious belief was connected with the Lutheran church. His wife was a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, born in 1812. Her parents were Peter and Anna Marie (Bricker) Shafer, who emigrated to Montgomery county, Ohio, when Mrs. Wolf was a maiden of ten summers. There they resided on a farm until after their daughter's marriage, when they came to Preble county, making their home with their children throughout their remaining days. Mr. and Mrs. Wolf became the parents of thirteen children, of whom the following are living: Mary A., the widow of Mahlon Ludwick, of Preble county, Ohio; Catherine, the widow of John Kirkpatrick, of this county; Sarah, the widow of Samuel Kuntz, of West Baltimore, Ohio; David; Christina, the wife of Samuel Davis, a farmer of this county; Samuel, the subject of this sketch; John, a resident farmer of Preble county; Susanna, the wife of Robert Mitchell, an engineer on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad living in Dayton, Ohio, and William, a resident of West Alexandria, Ohio.

Samuel Wolf, the subject of this review, was reared on the old homestead farm and in the common schools pursued his studies. At the age of seventeen years he began farming on his own account by renting land of his uncle Samuel. He was ambitious, energetic and reliable, and in his undertakings he prospered. After three years he purchased a threshing machine, which he operated in connection with farming for seven years. When he was about twenty-two years of age he and his brother-in-law, Mahlon Ludwick,

purchased one hundred acres of land, upon which Mr. Wolf now resides. The brother-in-law at first operated the farm while our subject engaged in threshing. In this way he obtained a good start, and as the years have passed he has added continually to his income. After his marriage he located on his uncle's farm of two hundred and twenty acres on section 9, and cultivated that land for five years. He then purchased his partner's interest in his present farm and removed with his family to his new home. Later he exchanged forty acres of his place for city property in West Alexandria. In 1892 he purchased sixty acres of land from his uncle's estate, the tract being located few miles south of his present farm, so that his landed possessions comprises one hundred and twenty acres of the richest farming land in Preble county.

On the 18th of August, 1872, Mr. Wolf united in marriage to Miss Margaret C. Stover, a native of Lanier township, Preble county. Their only child is now deceased. Mrs. Wolf is a daughter of William Harrison and Chloe A. (Siler) Stover. Her father was a native of Virginia and came to Ohio with his parents when a boy of five years, and the family locating in Lanier township. For forty years he was a consistent and prominent member of the Bethlehem Baptist church and was one of the highly esteemed men of the county.

In 1890 Mr. Wolf was elected a trustee of Lanier township and discharged his duties so capably and faithfully that he was re-elected at each succeeding election, a fact which well indicates his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. Socially he is connected with Eaton Lodge, No. 30, I. O. O. F. He is regarded as one of the leading and influ-

ential men of his community, is strictly upright in all his dealings and his word is as good as any bond ever solemnized by signature or seal. He is a supporter of all worthy charities and is a public-spirited and progressive citizen who withholds his aid from no movement or measure which he believes will contribute to the public good.

GEORGE W. REHFUSS.

The business interests of Eaton are well represented by Mr. Rehfuss, who is an enterprising grocer. He was born in the town which is still his home, June 3, 1857, and is a son of John M. and Susan (Goldsmith) Rehfuss. His father was born in Germany and came to the United States in 1849, taking up his abode in Eaton. He was a tanner by trade and followed that pursuit for some time in Eaton, after which he removed to Indiana. In 1858, however, he returned to Ohio, locating in West Alexandria, where he died in 1861. In his business affairs he prospered, becoming the possessor of a comfortable competence. He held membership in the German Reformed church and socially was a member of the Masonic fraternity. His wife was the daughter of William Goldsmith, who came originally from Delaware, and belonged to one of the old families of that state. His father was John Goldsmith, who secured land from the government in 1804, and this land is still in the possession of his descendants. John Goldsmith was a teamster, hauling most of the goods from Cincinnati to Eaton, in the early days. He died at the age of ninety-one years, and his wife passed away at the advanced age of ninety-six years. William Goldsmith was also a hard-working man and prospered in his undertakings, accumulating a comfort-

able competence. His daughter, the mother of our subject, died March 27, 1899. By her marriage she had five children, of whom three are living, namely: William, who resides in Eaton; George W., and Albert E., who is engaged in farming.

George W. Reh fuss pursued his education in the common schools until fourteen years of age, when he put aside his text books and learned the blacksmith's trade. He followed that pursuit until 1884, and his excellent workmanship secured to him a liberal patronage. He then turned his attention to the grocery trade and for eight years conducted business along that line. In 1893 he was appointed postmaster by President Cleveland, which position he held for five years, after which he purchased his present grocery store, which he is now successfully conducting. He enjoys a large trade and his prosperity is assured on account of his honorable dealing and his reasonable prices.

On the 21st of November, 1878, Mr. Reh fuss was married to Miss Anna Flora, a daughter of Chris Flora, and they now have two children—Ernest C. and Pearl S. In his political views Mr. Reh fuss is a stalwart Democrat and does all in his power to promote the growth and secure the success of his party. He has served as school director and as a constable, and for two terms was the treasurer of his township, his service continuing over a period of six years. He was also a member of the board of health six years and filled the positions of town treasurer and postmaster of Eaton at the same time. Some of his political opponents objected to this and tried to get him to resign as town treasurer, but did not succeed in their endeavors and he continued to fill both positions. He is a valued member of several fraternal organizations, including

the Benevolent and Protective Order of Elks; the Odd Fellows society, of which he is the financial secretary; the Knights of Pythias lodge, of which he is trustee; and the Improved Order of Red Men. He holds membership in the Christian church and was one of its trustees. His public and private record are alike commendable and at all times he has been true to the trust reposed in him.

CHARLES E. BARMES.

The present well known postmaster of West Manchester, Ohio, was born in Bartholomew county, Indiana, November 16, 1848, and is a son of Michael and Eliza (Wood) Barmes. His father was born in Germany and was eleven years old when brought by his parents to the United States. The family were among the first settlers of Bartholomew county, Indiana, and there Michael Barmes was reared upon a farm. He followed agricultural pursuits throughout life and died at the age of forty years. His wife, who is supposed to have been a native of West Virginia, survived her husband only a week. They were the parents of six children—five sons and one daughter, namely: John, Charles E., James, Michael, Willard and Mary.

Being left an orphan at an early age, Charles E. Barmes began the battle of life for himself at the age of thirteen years. For five years he lived with Ebenezer Hitchbourn at Hope, Indiana, and while there learned the cooper's trade. He next went to Union county, Indiana, where he made his home with a great aunt for seven years, during which time he engaged in farming. The following two years were spent in Richmond, that state, and in 1879 he came to West

Manchester, Ohio. Here he successfully followed farming until 1897, when appointed postmaster under President McKinley's administration, and is now most creditably and acceptably filling that office.

Mr. Barmes was first married in 1881, to Mary Braddock, and for his second wife wedded Adena Brown, a daughter of John Brown. They have no children. Socially Mr. Barmes affiliates with the Knights of Pythias at Eldorado, and politically is identified with the Republican party. He has served as township clerk of Monroe township, being elected four times, and has also filled the office of road commissioner and trustee of West Manchester. He is recognized as one of the most valuable and useful citizens of his community, always ready to aid any enterprise for the public good.

JESSE EBY.

The Eby family have been long and actively connected with Preble county and its history and the name has figured conspicuously in connection with its substantial developments and with the agricultural interests of the community. He whose name introduces this review resides in Gratis township and was born within its borders on the 4th of January, 1866. He represents one of the old families of the south. His grandfather, Christian Eby, was born in Gunpowder Falls, Baltimore county, Maryland, August 13, 1808, and came to Ohio in 1831. Seven years later, his father, Christian Eby, Sr., arrived in Ohio. He was born in York, Pennsylvania, in 1777, and was a son of Christian Eby, whose birth occurred in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, in 1743. The first ancestors of the family in America came from Zurich, Switzerland,

crossing the Atlantic in 1724, and his father was born in Zurich in 1660. Thus through many generations the ancestry can be traced back to the land of the Alps. In the subject of this review are manifested some of the sterling qualities of his Swiss ancestors. The mother bore the maiden name of Eliza Eikenbery, and was born in Lanier township, Preble county, January 6, 1842. She was a daughter of Peter and Eliza (Morningstar) Eikenbery, who removed from Pennsylvania to Lanier township, where they became enterprising and progressive farming people. The former was born in 1802 and died in 1871, and the latter was born in 1806 and passed away in 1885. This worthy couple became the parents of five sons and two daughters, of whom five are now living, namely: George, a resident of Peru, Indiana; Elizabeth, the wife of Jacob Jones, of Mexico, Indiana, and David, Eliza and Peter M., residents of Eaton. The parents of our subject were married on March 12, 1865, and their union was blessed with six children, but their son Christian died at the age of three years. Those still living are Jesse, of this review, Henry E., Vernon W., Edith and Elizabeth. The father is one of the most extensive and prosperous farmers and stockraisers of Preble county. He makes a specialty of the breeding of Duroc Jersey hogs and sells more of this breed than any other man in the county. He inherited a good property, to which he has added from time to time, becoming one of the most successful agriculturists and real estate owners in this section of the state. He has a number of fine farms, which continually augment his income, and throughout the community he is recognized as one of the most progressive business men.

In taking up the personal history of

Jesse Eby we present to our readers the life record of one who is widely and favorably known in this section of the state, for he has long lived in this neighborhood. He attended the district schools until eighteen years of age and was reared to farm life and labor, through the summer assisting in the work of the fields and meadows, and continuing with his parents until twenty-six years of age. He was married on the 14th of February, 1892, the lady of his choice being Miss Sarah B. Reese, a native of Warrensburg, Missouri, born on the 10th of December, 1870. Her parents were A. W. and Susan E. (Baile) Reese, now residents of Scranton, Pennsylvania. Four children grace the union of Mr. and Mrs. Eby: Effie E., born January 4, 1893; Edith L., born August 28, 1894; Warren McDonald, born February 10, 1896, and Joseph Allen, born June 5, 1899.

Mr. and Mrs. Eby began their domestic life upon his present farm, where he owns two hundred and fifty acres of rich and arable land. The place is improved with a fine frame residence, which was built by Hon. D. C. Stubbs. There are also good barns and outbuildings and all modern improvements and accessories. He successfully carries on general farming and is also a successful stock raiser. He raises Duroc Jersey hogs and sells about a hundred head annually. He feeds his stock all of the crops which he raises with the exception of wheat. He produces each year about twelve hundred bushels of wheat and twenty-four hundred bushels of corn. He has a flock of South Down sheep and has about eight horses which are used in the work of the farm. Although he is a young man he has already taken rank among the enterprising and successful agriculturists of his county and

possesses qualities which insure further success. He is very energetic and determined and carries forward to completion whatever he undertakes. His business methods are honorable and commend him to the confidence of those with whom he is associated. Politically he is a Democrat and is now serving as treasurer of the village school district. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and he withholds his support from no measure or movement which he thinks would prove of public benefit.

ANDREW COPP.

Andrew Copp, a retired farmer living in West Alexandria, has attained to a position of affluence through his own untiring and honorable efforts, and the competence which he acquired now enables him to rest from the more arduous duties of life. He is descended from one of the old Pennsylvania families. His great-grandfather, Andrew Copp, was a native of the Keystone state, whence he emigrated to Virginia in early life. There he was married and reared his family. He became well-to-do, owning extensive land interests, but by trade he was a blacksmith. During the war for independence he loyally responded to the call for troops and aided the colonists in their struggle to secure liberty. George Copp, the grandfather of our subject, became an influential planter and slaveholder in Virginia.

Andrew Copp, the father of our subject, was born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, about 1795, and on the old home plantation was reared. After his marriage he located on a farm of eighty acres given him by his father, the place being situated about two miles from the old homestead, on the Shenandoah Valley road. There he conducted a

tavern for more than fifteen years, when he sold it and purchased a farm at what is known as Gooley's manor, in the same county. He made his home there for nearly two years, and in 1832 he emigrated to Ohio, having previously visited the state in 1829. Well pleased with the country he determined to make a location in the Buckeye state, and with a four-horse wagon he made the journey westward, locating two and a half miles east of West Alexandria, in Twin township, Preble county, the eastern boundary of his farm forming a part of the county line. He purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land, and with characteristic energy began the development of a farm.

In 1836 he went on a prospecting tour to Iowa, to look at land in what was known as the Black Hawk purchase. While there he heard of the contemplated opening of the Platte purchase in northwestern Missouri and started for that country in order to be among the first on the ground. He was one of four men who reached that section prior to all other white settlers, and when the land was thrown open to settlement he took a squatter's claim, upon which he built a cabin and made the necessary improvements to hold the tract. He then returned home to sell his farm and move his family to this wild western district. While making arrangements he sent his son Andrew and a son-in-law to Missouri to hold the land, but on their arrival they found that the man who had been left in charge had sold the claim for two hundred dollars in gold! They gave up the attempt to recover it, and after remaining for about a year they returned to Ohio.

During this time the father had sold his farm and shortly afterward purchased eighty acres of land in Lanier township, a

short distance from his old home, where he carried on agricultural pursuits throughout the remainder of his life. By the purchase of an additional eighty acres he extended the boundaries of his farm, making it his home until called to his final rest in 1849. He married Elizabeth Huddle, who was also born in Shenandoah county, Virginia, and was a representative of an old family there. Mr. Copp left his native state because he was adverse to slavery and wished to rear his family apart from its influences. His brothers and his father were all slave holders. Mr. and Mrs. Copp became the parents of six children, three of whom are yet living: Lucy, the widow of Jacob Stover and a resident of Twin township; Andrew, of this review, and Joseph, who is living a retired life in West Alexandria. The parents were consistent and faithful members of the Lutheran church, and Mr. Copp was an old-line Whig in his political affiliations.

Reared upon the home farm amid the wild scenes of frontier life, Andrew Copp, of this review, early became familiar with all the duties, labors, hardships and trials which fall to the lot of the agriculturist who casts in his lot among the pioneer settlers in a new locality. He received only such educational privileges as were afforded by the primitive schools of those days, but through extensive reading and observation he has become a well informed man, his knowledge being broad and practical.

On the 7th of April, 1844, Mr. Copp was united in marriage to Miss Matilda E. Klinger, a native of Twin township, Preble county, and a daughter of William and Catherine (Bean) Klinger, the former a native of Pennsylvania and the latter of Virginia. They came to Ohio with their respective parents, and were among the pio-

neer settlers of the state. Mr. and Mrs. Copp became the parents of one child, but lost it in infancy. After their marriage Mr. Copp operated his father-in-law's farm for two years and then purchased the old home place, on which he had been mainly reared. Removing there, he made it his home for fifty-four years, and throughout that period was regarded as one of the most progressive and practical agriculturists of the community. In October, 1899, desiring to rest from the more arduous duties of life, he removed to West Alexandria, where in the summer previous he had purchased a handsome residence. His labors have brought to him a very desirable competence, and he is numbered among the substantial citizens of the community. In politics he is a Democrat, and is liberal in his views and sympathies. Both he and his wife are very active members of the Lutheran church, in which he has held the offices of deacon and elder for many years. His life has been an active and useful one, characterized by fidelity to duty in all relations. No trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed, and he stands as one whose sterling characteristics commend him to the regard and confidence of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

JACOB S. BENNER.

Jacob S. Benner, ex-county commissioner of Preble county and a leading agriculturist of Jackson township, living on section 14, was born in this township, on the 28th of October, 1855, his parents being Samuel and Mary (Halderman) Benner, who had but two children, the younger being William D., who resides on the old family homestead. The father was born in Miamisburg, Montgomery county, Ohio, May 9,

1827, and was a son of Samuel and Susanna (Dunkerly) Benner. The former was born near Miamisburg, Montgomery county. His father, Jacob Benner, married a Miss Boeher, a native of France, and a relative of Madame Boeher of Baltimore, celebrated in history in connection with the war of the Revolution. Her family owned some eight hundred acres of land on which the city of Baltimore now stands, and it was leased by her parents for ninety-nine years. The children are now trying to obtain possession of the same. Having arrived at years of maturity Samuel Benner married Susanna Dunkerly, who was born in Devonshire, England, and came to America with her parents, who located at Baltimore. Later they removed to Indiana, settling near Attica, where her father engaged in merchandising until his death, which occurred in 1858, when he was fifty-four years of age. Samuel Benner, the grandfather of our subject, died in 1854, at the age of fifty-six. Throughout his life he devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits, and was very successful in his undertakings. When a child of six years Samuel Bennett, the father of our subject, was taken by his parents in their emigration to Jackson township, Preble county, where his grandfather had entered three quarter-sections of land in 1808. Here Samuel Benner was reared to manhood, and on the 20th of March, 1854, at the age of twenty-five years, he wedded Mary Halderman. He then purchased eighty acres of land near New Hope and took up his abode on that farm in 1856. His parents both died in 1858, and in 1860 Samuel Benner disposed of his first farm and purchased the interest of the other heirs to the old homestead, to which he removed, there spending his remaining days, his death occurring on the

22d of March, 1887. He was a successful agriculturist, and as the years passed added to his farm until within its boundaries were comprised two hundred and thirty-eight acres. He was not a politician, yet his fellow townsmen frequently called him to serve in minor offices. He was a man of influence in his community and was a staunch supporter of the Republican party. His wife was born on the old Halderman farm in Washington township, Preble county, February 18, 1828, a daughter of Jacob and Catherine (Swihart) Halderman. She died October 22, 1875. Her father was born in Bottetourt county, Virginia, and his parents were slaveholders and influential people of the Old Dominion. They came to Ohio in an early day, locating on Twin creek, in Lanier township, Preble county, on the farm now owned by the Abraham Halderman estate. At the time of his marriage Jacob Halderman took up his abode in Gasper township, three miles south of Eaton, where he resided for a number of years, and then removed to Jackson township, settling near New Hope Station. There he became general agent for Whetstone & Company, of Cincinnati, which firm distributed flax-seed sent to farmers and purchased their products raised therefrom. He represented that firm for thirty-five years, during which time he established for them many agencies in Indiana. While thus engaged he also turned his attention to the lumber business, establishing a lumber yard at Columbia City, Indiana, in the '40s. That enterprise proved a very profitable one, and he established branch yards in various other Indiana towns, becoming well-to-do as the result of his success in that enterprise. His wife, Catherine Halderman, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, and was a daughter of Jonathan Swihart, who came to

Ohio in an early day, taking up his abode near Middletown. They were all members of the Dunkard church.

Jacob S. Benner was reared to manhood on the old home farm, acquiring his education in the district schools and later attending the A. D. Wilt Commercial College, in Dayton, Ohio. At the age of sixteen he began working for his grandfather Halderman in the lumber business at Columbia City, Indiana, and was thus engaged during the winter months, while in the summer seasons he aided in the operation of the fields on the old home place. His time was thus spent until his marriage, which occurred on the 26th of December, 1878, Miss Eliza Deem becoming his wife. She was a native of Washington township, Preble county, and a daughter of William and Sarah (Harshman) Deem, who removed from Warren county to Preble county. Her paternal grandparents were Joseph and Mary (Tarr) Deem, and her maternal grandparents were Daniel and Isabel (Erhart) Harshman, who removed from Virginia to the Buckeye state.

After his marriage Mr. Benner took up his abode on the farm of two hundred and thirty acres, on which he now resides and which at that time belonged to his father. He first purchased forty acres, on which tract stood the house, and at his father's death he inherited the remainder of the place. In June, 1897, the residence was destroyed by fire, and soon afterward he built his present commodious home, one of the most modern and splendidly equipped farm residences in the county. It is supplied with steam heat, hot and cold water and all modern conveniences, and indicates the progressive spirit of the owner. The home has been blessed by the presence of two children, Mary and Walter.

In connection with his farming interests Mr. Benner is interested in other business enterprises. He is president and owns a controlling interest in the Eaton Electric Light & Artificial Ice Company, having been at the head of the enterprise for the past ten years. He is engaged quite extensively in stock-raising, and upon his place are to be found fine grades of cattle, horses and hogs. In public affairs he has always taken a deep interest, and when only twenty-four years of age he was elected to the office of township trustee, in which position he served for twelve consecutive years. In 1892 he was elected to the office of county commissioner and for two terms served in that capacity. He studied closely the questions which came up for settlement by the board, and gave his support to the measures which he believed would prove of material public benefit. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Republican party, and is most earnest in his advocacy of its principles. Socially he is a valued member of Waverly Lodge, No. 143, K. P., of Eaton. Throughout his entire life he has resided in Preble county, and is highly regarded both in business and social circles by reason of his straightforward dealing and upright life.

WILLIAM D. BENNER.

William D. Benner was born November 26, 1862, on the farm where he still resides, and is a brother of Jacob S. Benner, whose sketch appears above. He was reared to manhood under the parental roof, and the common schools of the neighborhood afforded him his educational privileges. On the 2d of August, 1887, he was united in marriage to Miss Alice Barr, a native of Orange-

burg, Jefferson township, Preble county, and a daughter of Alexander and Axie (Curry) Barr. The father was a prominent farmer of Jefferson township, where he was born December 1, 1832. He was married October 29, 1859, locating on the old homestead, and there resided until 1880, when he purchased an adjoining farm, which he has since made his place of abode. His parents were Christopher and Jane P. (Johnston) Barr, and his grandfather was a native of Ireland. He became the founder of the family in America, crossing the Atlantic in the early part of the nineteenth century and taking up his abode in Dauphin county, Pennsylvania, where he wedded Miss Mary McElhenny. Soon afterward they removed to Indiana county, Pennsylvania, where were born unto them three sons and five daughters. About the year 1815 they emigrated westward, locating in Jefferson township, Preble county, near the present site of the town of Gettysburg, on the farm which is now the home of John Murray. There Mr. Barr cleared and developed a wild tract of land in the midst of the forest and in the intervals of outdoor labor taught a neighborhood school. Many of the older residents of Jefferson township and of the northern portion of Jackson township were among his pupils. Not only did Mr. Barr bring with him from the Emerald Isle a good education, but also those sterling Christian virtues which characterize the denomination of the Associated Reformed Presbyterians. He was a devoted member of that church, as was also his wife, and their children were reared in the same faith.

After his marriage William D. Benner began his domestic life on the old homestead, where he has since resided. He inherited the property from his father and is the owner of one hundred and eighty-two acres of rich

land, under a high state of cultivation and improved with all modern accessories and conveniences. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Benner has been blessed with one daughter, Olive Marie. Mrs. Benner is a member of the Presbyterian church, and like her husband shares in the high regard of many warm friends in the county. He is recognized as one of the leading young farmers of his township, and is a substantial and enterprising citizen who gives an earnest and loyal support to every movement calculated to prove of public good.

JAMES B. TRONE.

James B. Trone, the efficient and popular treasurer of Monroe township, is a native of Preble county, born in Monroe township, February 14, 1857, and is a son of Abram and Sarah Ann (Wishard) Trone, both natives of Pennsylvania, the former born in York county, the latter in Franklin county. The father was of German descent. About 1852 he came to Preble county, and located upon a farm in Monroe township, where he made his home until his death in 1867. He was a Democrat in politics and was held in high regard by all who knew him. His estimable wife is still living, at the age of eighty-one years, and now makes her home in West Manchester. Of their eight children only four are now living: Jacob W., a farmer of Monroe township; Rachel A., the wife of Henry Kisling, of Nebraska; Abraham T., a resident of Wyoming, and James B., our subject.

James B. Trone passed his boyhood and youth in his native township, and pursued his studies in the common schools of the neighborhood. He remained at home, assisting in the labors of the farm until he attained his

majority, and then went to West Manchester, where, in 1880, he embarked in the grocery business, opening the second grocery store in the town. During President Cleveland's first administration he was appointed postmaster and filled that office from 1885 to 1889, and again in 1893, serving till 1897. He continued in the grocery trade for about sixteen years, but finally closed out in 1897, and has since retired from active business, giving his entire time and attention to his official duties and private business affairs. In the spring of that year he was elected township treasurer, was re-elected in 1899, a position he is now filling with credit to himself and to the entire satisfaction of the general public. In 1898 he was elected treasurer for West Manchester, holding the position one term. Socially he is a member of Eldorado Lodge, No 389, K. P.

On the 23d of April, 1880, Mr. Trone was united in marriage with Miss Ilda G. Enoch, and to them was born a son who died in infancy. Mrs. Trone was born in Richmond, Indiana, but reared in Harrison township, and is the younger of the two children of Lewis Evens and Lydia Enoch. As her parents died when she was very small she was reared by her maternal grandparents, William and Mary Brown, early settlers of Preble county.

MRS. DIANA EBY.

Mrs. Diana Eby, deceased, owned and occupied one of the desirable farms of Somers township, the place being pleasantly located three miles east of Camden. Her husband, Christian Eby, was born in Baltimore county, Maryland, on the 13th of August, 1808, and died April 28, 1891. Mrs.

Eby bore the maiden name of Diana Murray and was born in Maryland, January 9, 1814, and died April 28, 1900. Her parents were John and Sarah (Baizeman) Murray and they had a family of fourteen children, twelve of whom—three sons and nine daughters—reached years of maturity, were married and had families of their own. One daughter, Keturah, became the wife of William Chenoweth and had eleven sons and two daughters, and at her death, which occurred in her eighty-seventh year, her daughters and seven of her sons were living and had families. The representatives of the Murray family are now widely scattered. John W. Murray, her brother, is a resident of Hampstead, Maryland, in which place Mrs. Eby was born and reared. Her father followed farming there and was also a merchant. He took an active part in public life, was a recognized leader in thought and action, and, though he did not enjoy rugged health, was a man of great energy, intelligence and influence. In his business affairs he prospered and accumulated a comfortable competency. His death occurred December 5, 1836, when he was about sixty years of age, and his wife survived him about ten years. All of her children were married at the time of her husband's death, and making her way to the west she took up her abode in the home of her son Joshua, who was then living in Ohio, but who afterward went to California, where he died. The sisters of Mrs. Eby who are still living are: Isabel, the widow of Adam Hendricks, whose son, Eugene, is the Rev. Bishop Hendricks, of the Methodist Episcopal church, South, and Mrs. Harriet Garner, of Columbus City, Iowa.

Mrs. Eby was married March 3, 1836, and with her husband located on Twin

creek in Montgomery county, Ohio. They removed to Gratis township, Preble county, in 1855, and to Somers township, Preble county, in March, 1878. Mr. Eby was a frail man, but a good manager, and his capably conducted business affairs brought to him a handsome competence, which enabled him to leave to each of his children a good farm. His only surviving brother, Adam Eby resides near Dayton, Ohio, and is now nearly eighty-six years of age. He also has a living sister, who is in Warrensburg, Missouri. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Eby were born eight children, one of whom died in infancy. Those still living are: Joseph, who has five children and owns several farms in Preble county; Samuel, who is a man of wealth, having large real-estate interests in Oregon; John C., of Nashville, Tennessee; Jane, the wife of A. C. Prugh, who is living on the Eby farm and has three sons; Mrs. Rebecca Eikenberry, a widow living in this neighborhood; and Agnes, the wife of Samuel Wampler, who resides near Dayton, Ohio, and has six children. Mrs. Eby was a well preserved old lady, and retained her faculties until her last sickness, which lasted only three or four days, she dying from a stroke of paralysis. She had an excellent memory for events of her early life. She was long a member of the Dunkard or Brethren church, to which her husband also belonged. On the farm which she owned and occupied is a fine brick residence. The place is the old Thomas Pottinger farm and is one of the best in this rich section of the Miami valley. This venerable lady enjoyed the esteem and love of all with whom she had been brought in contact, and a biographical record of Preble county would be incomplete without a record of her life, for she was a resident of the county for forty-five years.

NATHAN BROWN.

Nathan Brown was born in Abbeyville district, South Carolina, in 1774, and married Mary Sloan, who died in 1813, aged thirty-six years, an infant son being buried with her. The remaining children were: Grizzella, Catherine, James, Margaret and Elizabeth, all of whom came with their father to Ohio the same year and located on a part of section 23, Israel township, Preble county. The father married the second time Janet Brown, who though of the same name was not a relative. Of this union were born two sons and one daughter—Joseph, John and Nancy. Joseph married Jane Buck, who died leaving four daughters. He married, the second time, Eliza Cunningham, to whom were born three daughters. He died in 1897. John never married, owned the old homestead during his life and died a few months before his brother, in the same year. Nancy, with her husband, Samuel Bell, crossed the plains to Oregon in 1852, and died just before reaching her new home. One son had been buried in Ohio and two daughters were left motherless. Of the family of Nathan and Mary Brown, Grizzella married John Buck; Mary married Hugh Leslie; Margaret became the wife of Archy McDill; and Catherine and Elizabeth remained unmarried. The father died in 1849, at the home of his daughter in Dixon township. The son, James, was about eleven years of age when he came to Preble county from Abbeyville, South Carolina, where he was born November 20, 1802. He and Elizabeth Scott, of Butler county, Ohio, were married January 16, 1828, and their golden wedding was celebrated January 16, 1878. She was born March 20, 1806, and died July 7, 1885.

James and his wife settled on a farm near the old home, where they lived until 1875, when they left the farm and moved to the village of Morning Sun. To these parents were given twelve children. William Sloan, the eldest, was born March 11, 1829, and left home when a young man, going to Oregon, and from there southward to California, Panama and on to South America. He never returned home, as he died in Arequipa, Peru, November 8, 1885. James Scott, the second child, is represented on another page of this work. Mary Rebecca, born November 7, 1832, married David Faris, who died, and the second time she was united in marriage to J. H. McQuown, and died February 7, 1889, leaving one son, Scott B. McQuown. Margaret J., born January 9, 1834, died October 3, same year. Nathan Richey, born October 7, 1835, enlisted at the beginning of the civil war and served his country until he died in the hospital at Memphis, Tennessee; is buried in the Hopewell cemetery, near Morning Sun. N. Maria was born July 1, 1838. The seventh child, a son, died in infancy. Robert J., whose name appears elsewhere, resides on the old home farm. Elizabeth C., born November 1, 1845, died August 17, 1850. Twin children, a son and a daughter, died in infancy. Clara J., the youngest, was born October 7, 1852, graduated at Oxford Female College, in the class of 1871. She and her cousin, N. Elizabeth Bell, reside in the village of Morning Sun.

The sixth child of James and Elizabeth Brown, N. Maria, was married October 16, 1860, to Rev. J. B. Foster. Mr. Foster was born in Indiana, July 6, 1837, graduated at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio, in the class of 1858, finished his theological course in the United Presbyterian Seminary, at Mon-

mouth, Illinois, united with the Presbyterian church in 1867 and died at Due West, South Carolina, February 27, 1873. Four sons were born to them—Harry Y., Frank B., William H. and Leslie M; Frank and William graduated at Bloomington (Indiana) University, and both studied theology in Allegheny (United Presbyterian) Seminary. The latter died July 24, 1890. Frank B. is at the present date (1900) the pastor of the First United Presbyterian church at Omaha, Nebraska.

James and Elizabeth Brown left to their family an honorable record and that good name which is rather to be chosen than great riches. They also gave to their children considerable property, which had been acquired through their well directed efforts. They reared a family who do credit to their name and no family in the entire community is more respected than that of the Browns. Through many years the representatives of the name have been actively connected with agricultural interests and with the progress and upbuilding of the county along many lines and their work has been of great public benefit.

E. D. HEETER.

Among the worthy citizens of Preble county, upon whom the residents of this locality have bestowed the honors of public office, is Mr. Heeter, the well-known and efficient county treasurer. He was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, June 8, 1847, and is of German lineage. The grandfather was Sebastian Heeter, who, in 1813, emigrated westward to Ohio, taking up his residence near Dayton, where he engaged in farming. His son, Jacob Heeter, the father of our subject, was born in Lancaster

county, Pennsylvania, and during his early childhood was brought by his parents to the Buckeye state. He, too, became a farmer, and throughout his active business career carried on agricultural pursuits. In the midst of the forest he developed an excellent farm, cutting down the trees and preparing the land for the plow, after which he planted his crops and soon garnered abundant harvests. He has been a lifelong and consistent member of the Lutheran church and is yet living, at the advanced age of eighty-eight years. His residence in Preble county dates from 1863, and he has therefore witnessed much of its growth. He married Susanna Keener, a native of Pennsylvania, and she is still living, at the age of seventy-eight years. In their family were ten children, six of whom yet survive.

Mr. Heeter, whose name introduces this review, pursued his education in the common schools, and until twenty-three years of age engaged in farming. He then learned the trades of cabinetmaking and house building, becoming an expert carpenter. He followed that occupation for six years, after which he engaged in clerking and later carried on merchandising on his own account in Lewisburg, Preble county. In 1889 he was elected assessor of Harrison township, and proved a most capable and efficient officer. In September, 1890, he took up his abode in Eaton, where he assisted O. B. Eikenberry to open a store, of which he has since been the head salesman and manager, conducting the enterprise with marked ability and success. At the last election, however, he was chosen to the office of county treasurer on the Democratic ticket—the first Democrat elected to that position in ten years. He overcame a majority of four hundred and fifty-two, a

fact which indicates his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen.

Mr. Heeter has been twice married. He first wedded Elnora Hapner, a daughter of Michael Hapner. She died in 1886, leaving two children, Clarence and Earl. On the 15th of August, 1888, Mr. Heeter was again married, his second union being with Miss Jennie, a daughter of Michael Rumbough, a prosperous farmer of Pennsylvania. They now have one child, Charles R. Mr. Heeter is a member of the Odd Fellows society, and has long been a consistent member of the Lutheran church, in which he has served as a deacon and the treasurer for fourteen years and as the Sunday school superintendent for eighteen years. His integrity is above question, and all who know him have for him the highest respect and confidence. It will thus be seen that the public trust has been well placed in choosing Mr. Heeter for the position of county treasurer, in which capacity he is now acceptably serving.

ABRAHAM McNAMARA.

Father McNamara is the priest of the church of the Visitation in Eaton and is greatly beloved by the people among whom he labors. He was born in Belfast, Ireland, March 19, 1852. His grandfather, John McNamara, and his father, James McNamara, were both natives of Belfast, and the latter was a very prominent and successful linen merchant there, a member of the well known firm of McNamara & Hanna. He married Margaret Hanna, a cousin of the partner and a daughter of Samuel Hanna, an extensive grocer in county Down, Ireland. Her mother was Sophia Hanna.

Both Mr. and Mrs. McNamara were zealous members of the Catholic church. The father died in 1871 and the mother, surviving him some years, passed away March 23, 1893. They had thirteen children, of whom six are yet living, namely: John J., who is engaged in the flax trade at Belfast; Patrick, who is the proprietor of a hotel in that city; Hugh, who is also connected with the flax trade in Belfast; Bridget, the wife of Thomas J. Welsh, a pork merchant of Belfast; Margaret M., the wife of W. J. Farrell, a grocer of the same city; and Sophia T., the widow of Thomas J. Ryan, who was in the civil service at Belfast.

Father McNamara, whose name introduces this review, entered St. Malachi Seminary when ten years of age and there pursued his studies for three years. He afterward spent five years as a student in St. Coleman Seminary, at Violet Hill, in county Down, and then went to Cambria, the Grand Seminary of France. There he continued until seventeen years of age, after which he completed his studies at St. John's, in Waterford, Ireland. He was ordained to the priesthood when twenty-three years of age and was appointed assistant pastor of the parish of Seagoe, in county Armagh. He served as assistant to Dr. Morgan, who was vicar general, acting in that capacity for nine years. On the expiration of that period he went to Dunmore parish, where he remained for five years. On the 7th of July, 1888, he crossed the Atlantic to the United States and has served as priest at various places. He was at Urbana for two years, where he also had charge of the churches at St. Paris and Bradford, and for five years he was assistant to Father William Hickey, of St. Joseph's church, in Dayton, Ohio. On the 15th of January, 1897, he came to

Eaton and has been very successful in his work, his labors in this parish being very acceptable to his people. He has secured the earnest co-operation of the members, many of whom drive for long distances in order to attend church. There are now three hundred communicants in the church at the Visitation. When he took charge a heavy indebtedness rested upon the church, but he has greatly reduced this and the various working forces and organizations of the church are now well organized. Father McNamara is a man of strong personality, a forceful character and scholarly attainments, and his devotion to the cause has been of great and widespread benefit.

SAMUEL C. PARKS.

Among the representative citizens of the county none are more deserving of representation in this volume than Samuel C. Parks, who was for many years connected with its agricultural interests, but is now living a retired life in West Manchester. Through his well directed efforts he gained a handsome competence that numbers him among the substantial citizens of the community.

A native of Preble county, Mr. Parks was born in Monroe township, May 3, 1850, and is a son of Samuel and Lydia (McDonald) Parks, also natives of this county, their early home being south of Eaton. Our subject's paternal grandfather, Samuel Parks, Sr., was born in Pennsylvania and was an early settler of Preble county. The maternal grandfather, Hugh McDonald, was also a pioneer of this county, and aided materially in its development and prosperity. He was one of the best Bible scholars within its borders, and he was a staunch Republican

in politics. Our subject's ancestors were all of English descent. His father remained near his birthplace about two years after his marriage, and then located on section 12, Monroe township, where he successfully engaged in farming for some years, owning at one time three hundred acres of valuable land, most of which he cleared. In 1880 he retired from active labor and moved to West Manchester, where he died in 1897, at the ripe old age of seventy-nine years. He was well known throughout the county, and was highly respected and esteemed. In politics he was a Republican, and held some local offices in his township. For a time he was a member of the United Brethren church. His wife also died in West Manchester, in 1891, at the age of seventy two.

In the family of this worthy couple were seven children—six sons and one daughter, namely: John, deceased; Henry, a resident of Eaton; Stephen M., a farmer of Monroe township; Margaret, the wife of John P. Elliott, of Cass county, Indiana; Thomas H. and Samuel, twins, the former a resident of Lewisburg, Preble county, the latter, our subject; and Clinton D., who resides on the old homestead.

During his minority Samuel C. Parks remained on the home farm on section 12, Monroe township, and attended the district schools of that locality. On the 21st of November, 1872, he was united in marriage with Miss Martha Davisson, also a native of this county, who was reared in the same neighborhood as her husband and attended the same school. Her father, Jonathan Davisson, was born in Virginia, and came to Preble county, Ohio, at an early day, and was one of the prominent men of Monroe township, holding many offices, including those of county commissioner and township

trustee. He wedded Mary Shields, a native of Preble county and a representative of one of its old families. Mr. and Mrs. Parks are the parents of six children: Clinton M., who married Laura Gauch and is engaged in farming in Monroe township; Minnie A., the wife of Edward Wolf, who operates our subject's farm on section 12, Monroe township; Harry C., a farmer of the same township; John C. and Frank E., who are attending school; and Mary B., who died at the age of six years, nine months and two days. The three oldest were born in Cass county, Indiana, the others in this county.

It was in 1873 that Mr. Parks removed to Cass county, Indiana, arriving there, August 12, and on the 12th of August, 1880, he returned to Preble county, Ohio. He purchased the old homestead of Jonathan Davisson, upon which he made many improvements, including the erection of a good residence, substantial barns and outbuildings, transforming it into one of the most desirable farms of its size in the locality. It consists of one hundred and twenty acres of land, and he also has twenty acres near and joining West Manchester, where he has lived retired since March 2, 1892. While engaged in farming he made a specialty of the raising of fine horses, most of which he sold at from one hundred to two hundred dollars per head. He also gave considerable attention to cattle and hogs, and in all his undertakings met with excellent success. Keen discrimination, unflagging industry and resolute purpose are numbered among his salient characteristics, and thus he has won that prosperity which is the merited reward of honest effort.

Mr. Parks is a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and has served as school director, township trustee and in many other

local offices, the duties of which he most capably discharged. He is a prominent member of the Christian church of West Manchester, and is now serving as a trustee of the same.

SAMUEL E. SHELLNBARGER.

Probably no man connected with the agricultural interests of Preble county is more widely known throughout the United States than Samuel E. Shellenbarger, who is successfully and extensively engaged in the breeding of Poland China hogs. Few men have done more to improve the grade of hogs raised in this country than our subject, and as a reliable business man, enterprising and honorable, he well deserves representation in this volume. He makes his home in Camden, where he is also engaged in conducting a shoe store.

He was born in Butler county, Ohio, December 14, 1848. His father, Daniel C. Shellenbarger, was a native of North Carolina, born in 1809, about ten miles from Raleigh. He died in Butler county, in the fall of 1869. The grandfather of our subject was of German descent and the father spoke German as well as English. Though not a college-bred man, he possessed strong mentality and through reading, experience and observation became well informed. About 1839 he married Elizabeth Smith, a daughter of Daniel Smith, of Pennsylvania. Daniel Shellenbarger was a carpenter and builder by trade, following those pursuits in early life, but after coming to Ohio he carried on farming in Butler county, owning and operating there one hundred and ninety-two acres of land. Both he and his wife were members of the Lutheran church. The latter survived her husband about seven years

and died in 1878, at the age of sixty years. This worthy couple were the parents of eight children, of whom seven are yet living: William is an extensive farmer of Butler county, Ohio, and has three children; David, who operates the old family homestead, has two children living and has lost two; Mrs. Eliza Fulkerson, a widow, has three children; Daniel, who died in Tipton county, Indiana, left two children; Jacob is a farmer and stock and grain shipper and dealer of Butler county, and had six children, of whom four are now living; Samuel E. is the twin brother of Katie Shellenbarger, the latter the wife of L. Caldwell, of Garnett, Kansas, and has one daughter; and Sophia, the youngest of the family, is the wife of William Young, of Oxford, Ohio.

Mr. Shellenbarger, whose name introduces this review, obtained a liberal education in the common schools and remained at home until eighteen years of age, when he took a trip to the west, residing in Missouri and Kansas. He was engaged in farming and in the grocery business for about two years, and then returned to Butler county, where he was married on the 9th of February, 1870, to Eliza J. Duffield, of Butler county, a daughter of James B. Duffield, who is now one of the most extensive farmers and land owners of Preble county. He owns several valuable farms and is engaged in breeding Poland China hogs. He was one of the pioneers in this business, which he began in 1840, and which he still continues to some extent, although he is practically living retired, having attained the advanced age of eighty-two years. He has held a number of town offices, and for many years was a leader in public affairs in his locality. He had eight children, four of whom are yet living. Mr. and Mrs. Shellenbarger have

lost one son, James, who died at the age of nine months. Their living children are: Vinnie May, who is a graduate of the Camden high school and has also pursued a course in a business college; and Bessie L., who possesses considerable musical ability, in which direction she is being trained.

For some years Mr. Shellenbarger has been engaged in breeding and dealing in registered Poland China hogs. He has spared neither pains nor expense to secure the very best grades. He owns and breeds the best stock in the country, and had the distinction of carrying away from the World's Fair eleven hundred and seventy-five dollars in six first premiums and one second premium, and four of the six were grand sweepstakes. The stock business is carried on under the firm name of S. E. Shellenbarger & Company. In the shoe business he is associated with Mr. Sebert, and they have their store at No. 120 Main street, where in 1894 they bought and remodeled a fine business block, containing two store rooms. They are the largest recorders in the Ohio Poland China Record. They have paid as high as seven hundred and fifteen dollars for a boar, Big Chief Tecumseh, which is no doubt the best representative of Poland China stock in the United States. For the boar named J. H. Sanders they were offered eleven hundred and fifty dollars. They conduct annual and semi-annual sales in Camden, where they have a large pavilion specially fitted up for this purpose, and the amphitheater is the scene of much excitement and high bidding when their stock is sold at auction. They dispose of from one hundred and twenty-five to one hundred and fifty hogs in this way each year, and have so done for the last six or seven years. Their business is indeed extensive and brings to

them an excellent income, and in stock circles throughout the United States the firm is widely and favorably known, enjoying a most enviable reputation for honesty in all trade transactions.

Mr. Shellenbarger now owns four large farms, including the home farm, and his property is the merited reward of his own labors. He is a member of the Presbyterian church and a man of sterling worth, who enjoys the respect and confidence of all with whom he has come in contact. His marked industry, unflagging energy and resolute purpose have been the salient points in his prosperity, and his life should serve to encourage and inspire others who must depend upon their own exertions for advancement.

WILLIAM GREGG.

The name above suggests much of local history in Preble county, Ohio, where the Greggs have been pioneers and prominent farmers since the early days. William Gregg, a son of Silas and Susan (Fudge) Gregg, was born in Gratis township, Preble county, Ohio, two miles south of Winchester, April 17, 1837. His father was born in Georgia, January 4, 1801, and when but four years of age came to Ohio with his parents, who lived there until their death. Mr. Gregg's father, Silas Gregg, Sr., was born April 29, 1759, and his mother, Rhoda, was born March 6, 1764. They had eight children, three girls and five boys. The old people, who were of English descent, both died about 1850. Silas and Susan Gregg went to housekeeping on the old home farm, where they lived five years. In 1838 they removed to the Gregg farm, in section 27, Lanier

township. At the time of their removal to this place only about seventy acres were cleared. The residence into which they moved consisted of what is now known as the old brick portion, which was erected in 1830, by Jacob Brower, the building assuming its present dimensions in 1852, when Mr. Gregg built the frame addition. The barn was erected in 1840, and later received an addition. February 27, 1856, Mr. Gregg was called away by death and his widow occupied the place until her death, October 2, 1892. They left seven children, four boys and three girls, one of whom is dead. The eldest, Nancy, was born May 25, 1834, and married Washington Ozias, and died in 1861, leaving two children. Eliza A., born January 6, 1836, married Noah Coler and lives in Montgomery county, and they have five children. William is the immediate subject of this sketch. Mary A., born January 21, 1841, lives with her husband, Robert H. White, just west of the homestead. John, who was born March 13, 1843, married Sarah A. Young, and they have two children and live on the home place. Elijah, born January 5, 1847, married Eliza Morningstar, and they have one child and live in this county.

Mr. Gregg at his death left his family in comfortable circumstances. He was a faithful member of the Christian church at New Lexington, to which church Mrs. Gregg also belonged. Mr. Gregg, by an upright course through life, marked by many kind deeds, established for himself an unsullied reputation and won the esteem and honor of his fellow citizens. His widow, finding herself in charge of the large farm, did not flinch from the responsibilities which were suddenly thrown upon her, and it is greatly to her credit that, instead of allowing the prop-

erty to decrease, as is so often the case under similar circumstances, she largely added to its value. She purchased, subsequently to her husband's death, eighty acres across the pike, just west of the home place, and one hundred and sixty acres of land in Wabash county, Indiana. She brought also, with her son John, the old Dennison mill on Twin creek. Mrs. Gregg, in the management of her property, had the cordial assistance of her children, whom she raised to habits of industry and economy.

Susan Fudge, who married Silas Gregg, was the second child of Jacob and Elizabeth Fudge. Her parents emigrated from Virginia at an early day and settled in Lanier township, where she was born November 9, 1812. She received the best education which that early community afforded, in a little log schoolhouse of the true pioneer type. Though her father and mother had thirteen children, ten of them were girls and not until the seventh child was born was there a boy in the family. On this account much of the heavier work fell to the lot of the girls. Mrs. Gregg had vivid remembrance of helping her father in the work of clearing away brush, going to mill and the like. Nor was she idle in the domestic circle. The spindle and shuttle were her companions in the manufacture of linen, flannel and cloth for home use. She was also accustomed to braid straw for her hats and bonnets.

Jacob Fudge, her father, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, December 26, 1779. His father died when he was about three years of age, leaving a wife and two small boys, Jacob and David. The mother subsequently remarried and the family removed to Kentucky, where they lived until Jacob was about fourteen, when they emi-

grated to Warren county, Ohio, and settled where Lebanon now stands. Some six years afterward they settled on Clear creek, in the same county, near Springboro.

After living there a few years Jacob and his brother David, having attained their majority, concluded to strike out for themselves. They made their way to what is now Lanier township, Preble county, Ohio, and purchased five hundred acres of land on Twin creek, in sections 34 and 35. At the time of the purchase Jacob Fudge was obliged to go to Cincinnati to make a payment and receive a patent for the land. Cincinnati was then a mere village on the outskirts of civilization, and the court-house in which Mr. Fudge transacted his business consisted of the upper story of a log building. While there he was offered a real estate investment, which, had he accepted it, would have proved a most fortunate one for him; but he preferred his broad acres on Twin creek in the wilderness to a few acres in the embryo city. Mr. Fudge finally became possessed of his brother's share in the Twin creek tract, having exchanged for it land on Price's creek. When Preble county was organized Mr. Fudge was elected its first sheriff, but he had no liking for official life; and it is related that he bought an admirer a gallon of whisky on condition that he would not urge his nomination for a certain office. Mr. Fudge married, November 14, 1810, Elizabeth, a daughter of Gasper Potterf, the pioneer in the township which received his given name. Mrs. Fudge was born February 10, 1790, in Rockingham county, Virginia. They began married life in a log cabin on the hill west of the Jacob Fudge place. In 1819 Mr. Fudge erected a brick dwelling, one of the earliest brick houses in the county. It was a two-story structure with a story-and-a-half

wing, and was considered a stately building for that time. He died in his eighty-fourth year, March 27, 1863, and his wife died February 3, 1869. They were the parents of thirteen children: Malinda, who became Mrs. Pence, born August 23, 1811, deceased; Susan, now Mrs. Gregg; Mrs. Nancy Pence, born February 16, 1814, deceased; Lucinda, born September 6, 1815, died unmarried; Sarah, who became Mrs. Kesling, born July 28, 1817, deceased; Mrs. Eliza Ann Christman, born September 6, 1819; David, born June 26, 1821, died in California in 1859; Mrs. Elizabeth M. Harlan, born June 29, 1823; Mrs. Margaret Wieland, born May 23, 1825, deceased; Franklin N., born December 15, 1826; Seraphina, who became Mrs. Shaw, born April 8, 1829; Armina, who became Mrs. Gifford, born April 18, 1832; and Jacob, born July 13, 1837. Mr. Fudge was a hard-working, unostentatious man who attended strictly to his own affairs. His early education was necessarily neglected, but he was a man of sound judgment and prospered in his worldly interests.

William Gregg was reared on his father's farm, and acquired his education in the common schools. He was nineteen years old when his father died, and he remained with his mother, assisting her in the management of the estate, until 1867, when he married Miss Lavina Smith, a daughter of John Smith, a native of Virginia who came early to Ohio and settled in Montgomery county and became a well-to-do farmer and influential citizen there. Mrs. Gregg died April 28, 1876, leaving one son, Willard V., who is a member of his father's household. December 4, 1879, Mr. Gregg married his present wife, who was Miss Catharine Smith, a na-

tive of Montgomery county, Ohio, and a daughter of Jacob Smith, also a native of that county, and a son of John Smith mentioned above. Mrs. Gregg was brought up on her father's farm in Jackson township, four miles southwest of Germantown. By this marriage Mr. Gregg has four children: Clarence E., Noah O., Jacob S. and Hannah Altie, all of whom are still at their paternal home.

In 1865 Mr. Gregg bought his present home farm of one hundred and sixty acres, in section 26, Lanier township, Preble county, and there he located immediately after his first marriage. In 1891 he bought one hundred and twenty-two acres adjoining his first purchase, increasing the acreage of the place to two hundred and eighty-two. He also owns one hundred and sixty acres in Kearney county, Kansas, which he bought in 1893. A man of good business ability and versed in all the science of agriculture from boyhood, he has made a success of farming and tobacco culture, and has also made a reputation as a tobacco buyer. As the administrator of the Eikenberry estate he settled it so ably and impartially as to win the approbation of the court, the heirs and the public. After the death of his mother he administered her will and disposed of the Gregg property to the entire satisfaction of all concerned. Politically he is a Democrat, but is admired for the liberality of his views and his respect for the views of those who oppose him. He has been sent as a delegate to county conventions, and otherwise has had an important part in Democratic affairs in his township. For nine years he has been a member of the school board of Lanier township. Though not a member of any church, he contributes his full share to-

ward the maintenance of public worship, and is a liberal supporter of the conservative Dunkard church, of which Mrs. Gregg is a communicant.

HENRY J. TAYLOR.

Henry J. Taylor was born in Somers township, Preble county, June 30, 1840, a son of Aaron and Margaret (Conroe) Taylor. His paternal grandfather, Asher Taylor, was a native of New Jersey and emigrating westward took up his abode in Gratis township, Preble county, where he worked at the weaver's trade. His son, Aaron, was also a native of New Jersey and accompanied his parents to Ohio during his boyhood. He learned the brickmason's trade, and also followed the occupation of farming. During the greater part of his life he resided in Somers township, Preble county, and was recognized as one of the leading, enterprising and successful agriculturists of the community. He married Margaret, a daughter of John Conroe, one of the early settlers of Preble county, and they became the parents of seven children, of whom four are yet living, namely: Mary Ann, the wife of Abraham Van Trump, of Elkton; Caleb, who is living in Camden, Ohio; Henry J.; and James A., who is also a resident of Camden. The father of these children died in 1852, and the mother, surviving him for many years, passed away in 1871.

Mr. Taylor, whose name introduces this review, pursued his education in the local schools of Somers township. His boyhood days were passed in the usual manner of farmer lads, the work of the fields and meadows occupying much of his time and attention. In 1879 he removed to Eaton, where he engaged in teaming until the 27th of May,

1889, when he was made the superintendent of the city buildings. In this capacity he is most faithful, giving careful supervision to all matters connected with his office. He drives the hose wagon to fires, and is in charge of that department day and night. Throughout the eleven years of his connection therewith he has missed driving only two times, and on both those occasions he hitched his team to the hose cart and let his son drive. He has served as a school director and is a progressive citizen, deeply interested in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community.

On the 1st of October, 1863, Mr. Taylor married Miss Elizabeth Williams, a daughter of David Williams, who came to Preble county at an early period in its development. Four children have been born to our subject and his wife: Curtis, who is living in North Baltimore, Ohio; Cora, the wife of H. D. Cormier, of Oxford, Ohio; Charles A., of Eaton; and Cassius M., who also is living in Eaton. Mr. Taylor is a man well known for his reliability and fidelity and is a worthy public officer.

JOHN NISONGER.

Prominent among the representative citizens of Monroe township who have made their own way in the world unaided, is the gentleman whose name introduces this sketch. He is now living a retired life on section 2, enjoying a rest which he has truly earned and richly deserved by reason of his industrious efforts of former years. Accomplishment and progress ever imply labor, energy and diligence, and it was those qualities that enabled our subject to rise from the ranks of the many and stand among the successful few.

Mr. Nisonger was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, March 19, 1830, a son of George and Frana (Rasner) Nisonger, both natives of Pennsylvania. Both the paternal and maternal grandparents of our subject are supposed to have been natives of the same state and of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. His grandfather Nisonger was probably a soldier of the Revolutionary war. During his boyhood the father became a resident of Montgomery county, Ohio, where he made his home throughout life, dying there at a good old age. By occupation he was a farmer and powder-maker. In early life the mother of our subject lived in Cincinnati, and at the age of eleven years went to Dayton, at which time that city contained but one house. She, too, spent the remainder of her life in Montgomery county, and died there at the age of sixty-five years. In the family were eleven children, nine of whom reached man and womanhood, but only three are now living, our subject being the youngest of these. His sister Polly is the wife of Hugh McCibbin, of Darke county; and Sallie is the widow of Levi McCibbin and a resident of the same county.

The educational advantages of John Nisonger were such as the public schools of this state afforded during his boyhood. The schoolhouse was built of logs, with slab seats, and a writing desk made by laying a board across pins driven into the wall. Leaving home at the age of eighteen years, he went to Darke county and engaged in farming in Twin township until 1888, when he came to this county, taking up his residence at his present home, a half mile north of West Manchester on section 2, Monroe township. He still owns a valuable farm in Twin township, Darke county, which is well improved and under a high state of cultivation.

On the 17th of March, 1851, in Preble county, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Nisonger and Miss Mary Fleagle, who was born in Harrison township, March 13, 1833, a daughter of Abraham and Isabel (Dutchman) Fleagle, also natives of Pennsylvania and of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. They were early settlers of this county, and the parents of ten children, three of whom are now living, namely: Jane, the widow of Jonas Philips; John, a resident of Sonora, Ohio; and Mary, the wife of our subject. The last named is the youngest of the family. Her father was a soldier of the war of 1812.

Eight children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Nisonger; George, born January 17, 1852, is a farmer of Twin township, Darke county; Isabel, born September 30, 1853, died January 10, 1856; William, born January 21, 1856, resides on the old homestead in Twin township, Darke county; Mary J., born June 31, 1858, is the wife of Van Odle, of the same township; Abraham, born February 28, 1861, and Perry, born November 9, 1863, are both residents of Darke county; Delia, born June 20, 1866, is the wife of George Shofner, of Twin township, Darke county; and Charles, born January 1, 1872, is still with his parents. They also have thirteen grandchildren, eleven boys and two girls, all born in Darke county where they still reside.

Throughout his entire business career Mr. Nisonger followed agricultural pursuits, and being a man of sound judgment, good business ability and industrious habits, he steadily prospered, and succeeded in accumulating a comfortable property, which enables him to spend his declining years in ease and quiet. He reared a large family and provided them with good educational ad-

vantages. Like his father, he is a staunch supporter of the Democratic party, and he and his wife are earnest and consistent members of the United Brethren church.

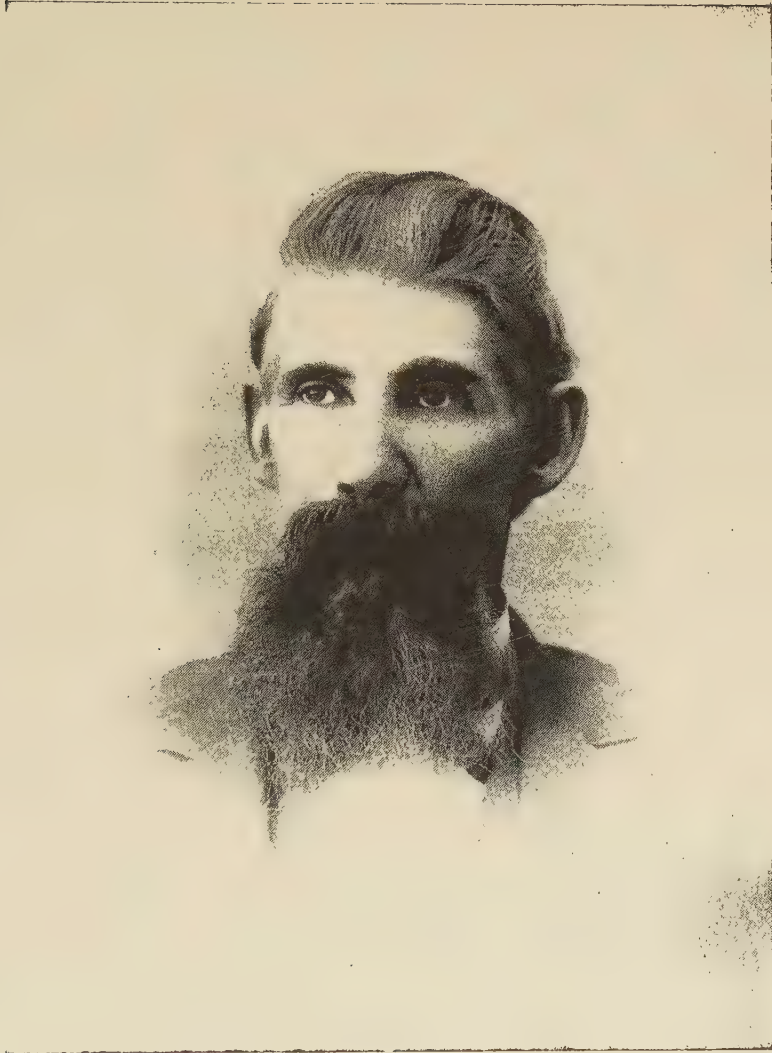
GEORGE W. HANGER.

George W. Hanger, one of the successful and extensive agriculturists of Preble county, was born July 24, 1842, in Gratis township, upon the farm which is still his home. He represents an old German family that was founded in America at an early period in its history. His paternal grandfather was a native of Pennsylvania and removed to Virginia, where, in Augusta county, George Hanger, the father of our subject, was born August 17, 1793, and he came to the Buckeye state in 1811 on a prospecting tour. He spent one winter on Price's creek, in Monroe township, Preble county, and then returned to the state of his nativity. As a member of a militia company he took part in the war of 1812. He was married in his native state, about 1812 or 1813, to Catherine Loop, and to them were born four children, all natives of Preble county with one exception, the oldest, Elizabeth, who was born in Virginia. The mother died in February, 1828, in the prime of life, and the father was again married, September 30, 1830, his second union being with Mary Ann Shrackengast, of Rockingham county, Virginia, a daughter of David Shrackengast, who was of Holland lineage. Unto this second marriage there were born two sons and four daughters, namely: Rebecca, Evaline, Joseph, Sarah M., George W. and Harriet C., all deceased excepting the last two.

The father of our subject came to Preble county about 1815. He made the journey to his new home with a five-horse team, bring-

ing with him all of his household goods. He was six weeks upon the road, traveling with a colony who sought to establish homes in the west. Upon reaching his destination he "traded" his horses and wagon in partial payment for his land, comprising seventy-six acres. Only two acres had been cleared, the remainder being covered with a heavy growth of timber. Mr. Hanger cleared the farm and for several years lived in a log house in true pioneer style. Later he replaced the cabin by a frame residence, and as the years passed by added all of the improvements and conveniences known to the older developed east. He was a Whig in his political affiliations, and served as a township trustee, but was never an aspirant for office. In his religious belief he was a Lutheran, and his second wife was a Methodist, which church he attended with her.

George W. Hanger, whose name introduces this record, was reared to farm life, early taking an active part in the work of developing the fields, clearing the land and harvesting the crops. He received a good common-school education, and on the 12th of August, 1862, he enlisted for service in the civil war as a member of the One Hundred and Twelfth Ohio Infantry, which was consolidated with the Sixty-third Ohio, which command the former regiment joined at Holly Springs, Mississippi. Mr. Hanger served throughout the remainder of the war, and with his command went in pursuit of Forrest. He also took part in the siege of Atlanta and was with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea, which broke the backbone of the Confederacy. He was afterward taken from Savannah by way of the sea, and to Beaufort, South Carolina. He joined the command at Goldsboro, and was at Raleigh, North Carolina, when Johnston



G. W. Heanger

surrendered. He was always found at his post of duty, and was often in the thickest of the fight. Many times his clothing was pierced by rebel bullets and his canteen was several times struck by the enemy's balls, but he remained uninjured. He was serving as a non-commissioned officer. His command marched from Raleigh to Washington, where he participated in the grand review, where wave after wave of bayonet-crested blue passed by the stand on which the president was standing to watch the return of the victorious army. As a member of Company G, Sixty-third Ohio Infantry, he received an honorable discharge at Louisville, Kentucky, July 8, 1865, and with a most creditable military record returned to his home.

Mr. Hanger has since resided upon the farm where his birth occurred. He was married October 7, 1868, to Miss Catherine Judy, a daughter of Samuel and Mary Magdalen (Beam) Judy. She was born in Pennsylvania, but was reared in Maryland and Ohio, having been brought to the latter state when very young. Mr. and Mrs. Hanger have seven children, namely: Mary Lillian, Samuel Ernest, George LeRoy, Clara Catherine, Charles Arthur, Wallace Edwin and Lizzie Evelyn. The children are still at their parental home, and the family circle yet remains unbroken, with the exception of Charles Arthur, who died in childhood.

The large and commodious residence which the family occupy was erected by Mr. Hanger in 1885. He has made other substantial improvements upon the place, including the remodeling of the old barn, which was built by his father. He has erected other substantial outbuildings, and has one of the best improved farms in the community. He makes a specialty of the raising of

Duroc Jersey hogs, and has some very valuable registered stock, having sold many head at high prices. He raises wheat, corn and tobacco and feeds his corn to his stock, but markets his wheat and tobacco. He is a member of the Wayne County Farmers' Club, which he joined in 1898, and in the present year, 1900, is serving as its vice-president. In his political views he is a Republican and served for nearly seven years as county commissioner, proving a most capable and efficient officer. He and his family hold membership in the United Brethren church, and he is serving as a trustee of the Greenbush church. Mr. Hanger withholds his support from no measure or movement which he believes will prove of public good and his labors have been of great benefit to the county of his nativity along various lines. A progressive farmer, a competent officer, a valued soldier and a man whose social qualities commend him to the friendship and regard of all, he is both widely and favorably known in Preble county.

JACOB CHAMBERS.

Jacob Chambers is now living retired in Eaton, and probably no single individual of Preble county has done more to advance its interests along material lines of substantial development than he. He was born in Hanover, York county, Pennsylvania, July 22, 1813. His father, John Chambers, was a soldier in the war of 1812, and, returning to his home in broken health, he died in Hanover, Pennsylvania, January 2, 1815. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Magdalen Eyler, never married again and died in Eaton in October, 1849, in her sixty-first year. In their family were three children, the eldest being George, who was born May

4, 1812, and is now living in Eaton, in his eighty-eighth year. The youngest, Sarah Ann, became the wife of Theodore Harbaugh and died in Eaton, April 30, 1897, at the age of eighty years and twenty days.

Jacob Chambers was the second of the family. He obtained a limited education in such common schools as were offered in his youth. The family were left in rather limited circumstances at the time of the father's death, and at a very early age Mr. Chambers was obliged to earn his own livelihood. This in consequence prevented his attending school and his experience as a student would probably not cover more than nine months. He has, however, throughout his life added to his knowledge by reading, observation and experience and is now a well informed man. In his youth he worked on a farm and in a tobacco shop, receiving in the latter about seventy-five cents per week. He boarded at home and his wages enabled him to clothe himself. He became an apprentice to the jeweler's trade in Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, where he was employed between the ages of seventeen and twenty one years. In 1835 he started for Chicago, which city then had a population of two thousand. There was not a railroad in the state of Ohio. He made his way as far as Detroit, Michigan, where he found that the boat for Chicago did not leave for ten days. This circumstance led him to abandon his trip and he made his way to Dayton; but after a few days' residence there came to Eaton, arriving in this city at one o'clock on the 14th of September, 1835. Here he has since made his home, covering a period of sixty-five years. He came to Eaton because he was informed that there was an opening here for a watch-maker and jeweler and was the second to establish business in that line at

his new home. Here he conducted a store, carrying a general line of jewelry, clocks, watches, toys and notions. He met with a fair degree of success and continued in active business for about fifty-five years, since which time he has lived retired.

Mr. Chambers has been three times married, his first union being with Miss Ann Catherine Bell, of Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, whom he wedded May 24, 1836, their marriage being celebrated at her old home. Two children were born to the union, Ezra B. and Mary, but the latter died at the age of four years. The son learned the jeweler's trade and followed that business for many years, but died in Santa Barbara, California, at the age of sixty-three, leaving a widow and two daughters, all of whom are still living in Santa Barbara. Mrs. Chambers died in Eaton, July 25, 1858, and on the 15th of June, 1859, Mr. Chambers again married, his second union being with Mrs. Esther H. Harvey Tabor, whose maiden name was Cone. She was a native of Vermont, born January 15, 1820, and is still living.

Mr. Chambers has been a life-long student and is a recognized authority in this community upon current history, local events and upon the pioneer annals. Among his records he has preserved the funeral cards of every person who has died in Eaton in the last thirty years and can give the name and age of each one. For sixty-four years he has been a subscriber to the Methodist Christian Advocate and has every copy except a few which he sold to Mr. Deering, of Chicago, for use in the historical library at Evanston. He has also been a subscriber to the Eaton Register for sixty-three years and has all the copies of that paper. He has also preserved and filed away many volumes of their publications and cherishes this library

as a sacred heirloom. He believes that the public press is a national educator, a recorder of events as they occur in proper chronological order.

Mr. Chambers joined the Methodist Episcopal church at Hanover, Pennsylvania, June 8, 1828, and has been a communicant in that organization for nearly seventy-two years. His life has been that of a consistent Christian, active in the work of the church, and upright in all his relations with the world. He has ever believed in reform and was a stanch Abolitionist in *ante bellum* days. His home was a station on the underground railroad and he was active in the liberation of the slaves who made their way from the south across the Ohio river. He has always been a warm friend of the temperance cause and has done all he could to aid his fellow men in throwing off the shackles of intemperance. He is an uncompromising Prohibitionist and for many years has been very active and zealous in advocating the principles of that party, believing most firmly in complete and universal prohibition. In 1853 he was a candidate for the Prohibitionist party for the office of state senator. In 1853 he served as assistant judge, being appointed to that position by Judge Reuben Wood. In 1881 he was appointed by Governor Foster one of the trustees of the Eaton Asylum, the appointment being confirmed by the state legislature. Since 1856 he has been a member of the Preble County Bible Society and has filled every lay office in the church.

He is an old gentleman of broad culture, extensive reading and a retentive memory having gained him comprehensive knowledge. His mental faculties are still unimpaired, and his strong mind and broad fund of information make him an entertaining

companion. He has been an active, public-spirited citizen of Eaton, has erected twenty-one homes in the city, and has probably been instrumental in bringing more people to the city than any other one person. He has contributed of his means to the erection of every church edifice here and has done all in his power to encourage the feeling of public improvement by buying pike and railroad stock and by supporting many other measures which have led to the general good. His name is inseparably connected with the history of the community and he certainly deserves honorable mention in connection with the history of Preble county. He has now reached the advanced age of eighty-seven years and is regarded as one who is in many respects worthy of emulation. He is a modest, unassuming man, caring not for notoriety, yet he richly deserves the praise that is usually given a self-made man and the high regard which is accorded him by his many friends.

JOSEPH W. BOWER.

Joseph W. Bower is successfully engaged in the milling business in Lanier township, his home being on section 3 of that township. He has a thorough understanding of his trade, and his excellent workmanship and courteous treatment of his patrons have secured to him a liberal patronage. His entire life having been spent in Preble county and his career having been one worthy of emulation, he is both widely and favorably known in this section of the state.

He was born January 3, 1834, on the farm where he now resides, and is one of the eight children of John and Delilah (Wysong) Bower. His father was born near Germantown, Ohio, in 1810, and was a son

of Jacob Bower, who came from Pennsylvania to the Buckeye state at an early epoch in the development of this section of the country. Amid the wild scenes of the frontier he developed a farm near Germantown, Montgomery county, and there remained for a number of years. Later he took up his abode in Twin township, Preble county, settling on Twin creek, three-fourths of a mile north of the Dayton and Eaton pike. Some years later he removed to Indiana, but soon afterward returned to Twin township, and here spent his last days. John Bower, the father of our subject, was reared upon the home farm and early became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of those who establish homes in the western wilderness. His educational privileges were extremely limited. He probably attended school not more than nine months in his entire life, but he had a strong craving for knowledge, and he improved every opportunity that would enable him to add to his store of learning. With the aid of candlelight in the long winter evenings he acquired a thorough practical education, and his set of books, which are still in the possession of his son Joseph, indicates that he was a good bookkeeper. In his early manhood he learned the miller's trade, and when he had mastered the business he secured employment in the mill now owned and operated by the subject of this review. A year later he took charge of the Mumma mill, located on Twin creek, one-half of a mile north of the Dayton and Eaton pike, and subsequently he purchased the property and conducted the mill until 1850, when he sold out and removed to West Alexandria. There he erected a business block and opened a grocery store, which he conducted up to the time of his death, on the 19th of March, 1879. He

was one of the well-known men of the county, prominent in public affairs and a recognized leader of public thought and movement. For many terms he was elected and faithfully served as township treasurer, and of the Masonic lodge he was a valued representative. A man of the highest respectability, his example was well worthy of emulation. He married Miss Delilah Wysong, who was born in Virginia, April 13, 1813, a daughter of Joseph and Susannah (Kitchen) Wysong, who left the Old Dominion in the early '20s and came to the Buckeye state, making the journey by wagon. They located on a farm of one hundred and three acres in Jackson township, Montgomery county, where they resided until 1850, when Mr. Wysong purchased the mill on Twin creek from John Bower, his son-in-law. He gave to his own sons an interest in his mill, and they operated it until the time of their father's death. Mrs. Bower still survives her husband, and is now living in West Alexandria, in her eighty-eighth year. She became the mother of eight children, three of whom are living, namely: Joseph W.; Sarah E., wife of Adam Kendig, a resident of West Alexandria; and Eliza J., the wife of John M. Kendig, a minister of the Reformed church of Youngstown, Ohio.

On the home farm Joseph W. Bower spent his childhood days and in the common schools of New Lexington acquired his education. He received his business training under the direction of his father, with whom he learned the miller's trade. On the 22d of August, 1855, he secured as a helpmeet and companion on life's journey Miss Mary A. Slane, a native of New Lexington, Preble county, and a daughter of Thomas Slane, who came to Ohio from Virginia at an early day, taking up his abode on a farm at New

Lexington. After his marriage Mr. Bower took charge of the mill on Price's creek, operating it on the shares, but after three months, finding that the owner was exceedingly unpopular in the neighborhood, he withdrew and took charge of the mill which he now owns, operating the mill for John Early for four years and five months. On the expiration of that period he left his employ and took charge of the mill on Twin creek at West Alexandria, continuing its operation for seventeen years, although it changed hands during that period. In 1876 he purchased the mill, which he now owns, and thus entered upon an independent business career, which has been attended with success. His thorough and practical understanding of the business, combined with his capable management, his reliable methods and his fair dealing with his patrons, has secured to him a large and profitable business.

By his first marriage Mr. Bower had two children: Lilly B., now the wife of Charles Brickley, an agriculturist of Farmland, Indiana; and Sarah E., the wife of H. C. Glander, a merchant of West Alexandria. The mother died in June, 1887, and on the 17th of January, 1890, Mr. Bower was again married, his second union being with Mrs. Mary A. (Berry) Bower. She is a native of Funkstown, Maryland, and during the time of the civil war she came to this state with her mother, one brother and one sister, for their southern home was in the midst of the hostilities and they sought safety in the north. By this marriage there was one son, John H. For sixteen consecutive years Mr. Bower has held the office of township treasurer, and no higher testimonial of his faithful service could be given than his long continuance in the office, for the American people do not long keep un-

worthy officials in places of public trust. In politics he is a Democrat, and has always supported the men and measures of his party. He is well known as a reliable business man, a public-spirited and progressive citizen and faithful friend, and as one of the representative residents of Preble county he well deserves mention in this volume.

ORANGE E. OXER.

The progressive spirit of Mr. Oser has been an important element not only in securing his own success, but in advancing the material welfare of the community with which he is connected. He stands today as one of the leading business men of West Alexandria, and is at the head of one of its most important mercantile concerns. He was born in Preble county, July 24, 1863, and is a son of John G. and Lucinda (Paddock) Oser. His grandfather, George W. Oser, was a native of Virginia, and emigrated westward in early life, taking up his abode in Union county, Indiana, where he resided for some time. In the early '50s, however, he came to Preble county, where he made his home until his death. He was a prominent worker in the Christian church, and a man whose integrity in all the affairs of life was above question. He married Phoebe Gard, who was a native of Pennsylvania, her parents belonging to an old Pennsylvania family. She survived her husband for about ten or eleven years, and after his death became the wife of Vincent Rose.

John G. Oser, the father of our subject, was born in Indiana, near the Ohio state line, about 1840, and when a boy in his 'teens accompanied his parents on their removal to Preble county. After his marriage he located in Dixon township, where he engaged

in farming until 1865, when he removed to Jackson township. There he resided until 1884, when he established his home in Richmond, Indiana, where he conducted a meat market. In 1890, however, he returned to the farm upon which he now resides, and in 1893 he embarked in the canning business at New Paris, Ohio, being successfully engaged in the canning of corn and tomatoes. His business affairs are well conducted, bringing to him a comfortable competence. In his political views Mr. Ozer is a Republican, and has held some local township offices, but has never sought or desired political preferment. He is an earnest and zealous member of the Christian church, and was largely instrumental in securing the erection of the new Christian church at Campbellstown in 1899. His many excellent characteristics have made him a highly esteemed resident of his community.

Mr. Ozer, whose name introduces this review, spent the first sixteen years of his life on the home farm, acquiring his elementary education in the public schools. He then went to Columbus and entered the State University, where he pursued his studies three years, employment which he secured having enabled him to pay his way through college. In the spring of 1882 he returned home, and after remaining on his father's farm for a year he accompanied his parents on their removal to Richmond, Indiana, where he also remained for a year. He then returned to the old homestead in Ohio and boarded with a family that had rented the place until his marriage. On the 13th of January, 1884, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Ella Van Tuyl, a native of Preble county, Ohio, and a daughter of Charles and Jane (Hansel) Van Tuyl. Her father was the proprietor of a sawmill. After their

marriage Mr. Ozer purchased a farm in Jackson township, and for four years gave his time and energies to the cultivation of the land, after which he removed to West Alexandria, where he engaged in the lumber business. He purchased a sawmill and eighty-six acres of timber land near the town, and devoted his time to the manufacture of hardwood lumber. Prosperity attended the new enterprise, and he continued his efforts in that line until 1894, when he entered into partnership with D. R. Wampler and purchased the mercantile business of Eikenberry & Christopher, conducting the store under the firm name of Ozer & Wampler for five years. On the expiration of that period his partner sold his interest to Charles D. Glander and the firm title has since been Ozer & Glander. This is the leading mercantile firm of West Alexandria. Business is carried on according to the most progressive methods, and the establishment would do credit to a city much larger than West Alexandria. They carry a large and well selected stock of goods, and their fair dealing, reasonable prices and uniform courtesy have secured to them a very liberal patronage. In the fall of 1899 Mr. Ozer agitated the question of establishing a canning factory in West Alexandria, and as a result of his efforts a company was formed and a building constructed, and business begun in August, 1900, which is being transacted under the firm name of The Gem Canning Company, canners of corn and tomatoes, and the outlook bids well for splendid success in the business. Both Mr. Ozer and his partner, Mr. Glander, are heavy stockholders in the enterprise.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ozer have been born three children: Lucile, Van Tuyl and John G. Their home is celebrated for its gracious

hospitality, and the circle of their friends in this community is a very extensive one. Socially Mr. Oser is connected with Royal Lodge, No. 329, K. of P., of West Alexandria, and with Gem City Lodge, F. & A. M., of Dayton. He usually votes with the Republican party, but is not a bitter partisan, and his close study of the questions and issues of the day enable him to give an intelligent support to the principles which he advocates. He has repeatedly been a member of the town council and of the school board, exercising his official prerogative to advance the intellectual and material welfare of the community. He owes his success entirely to his own efforts. He is a man of keen discrimination whose judgment is rarely at fault, and to these qualities, as well as untiring industry, he owes his success in a large degree. He is regarded as one of the most progressive residents of Preble county, and belongs to that class of representative Americans who enhance the general prosperity while laboring for individual success.

SAMUEL BEELMAN.

Every community has its enterprising men to whose business ability, determined purpose and unfaltering energy the township or county which they represent owes much of its prosperity and progress. To this class belongs Samuel Beelman, who is successfully conducting a grocery store in New Paris, and whose honorable business methods, unfailing courtesy and straightforward dealing secure to him a liberal patronage.

He was born in Carlisle, Cumberland county, Pennsylvania, on the 27th of April,

1834. His father, Samuel Beelman, was a native of the same locality and there spent the days of his boyhood and youth. By occupation he was a farmer. His grandfather, Christian Beelman, was born in York county, Pennsylvania, and was of German descent. Having arrived at years of maturity, Samuel Beelman chose as a companion and helpmeet on life's journey Miss Hettie Henry, a native of the Keystone state and the daughter of Samuel Henry, who also was born in Pennsylvania. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Beelman was blessed with three children, all of whom are yet living, namely: David, a resident of Cumberland county, Pennsylvania; Samuel, of this review; and Christian, who is living in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. The father died in New Orleans, at the age of fifty-five years.

Samuel Beelman, the second of the family, was reared in the county of his nativity until eighteen years of age, and pursued his education in the common schools of the neighborhood until sixteen years of age, when he entered upon his business career by learning the miller's trade, which he followed for two years. On the expiration of that period he came to Ohio, locating in Springfield in 1851. He followed milling on Buck creek and Mad river, and in 1856 he came to Preble county, Ohio, where he conducted the steam mill at Eldorado for about three years. His next place of residence was in Greene county, where he engaged in the milling business for one year, after which he returned to Eldorado and established a grocery, which he conducted until 1862.

Mr. Beelman then responded to the country's call for troops. Prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he joined Company C, Fiftieth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, as a private, and was promoted to the rank of first ser-

geant and remained with the army until the close of the war. He participated in the battle of Perryville, Kentucky, and afterward, on account of failing health, did duty on recruiting service. In August, 1865, he received an honorable discharge and came at once to New Paris, where he has since engaged in the grocery business. His connection with this line of commercial activity antedates that of any other merchant in the town. He also deals in feed and does an exchange business, his patronage being extensive land bringing to him a good income.

In Eldorado, Preble county, in January, 1857, Mr. Beelman was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Wilcox, a native of Preble county, where she was reared and was a daughter of Abram Wilcox, an early settler of the community. They now have one child, Margaret, who is the wife of A. K. Cartwright, a resident of New Paris. Mr. Beelman is a member of Caleb Markes Post, G. A. R., and is now the junior vice commander. He also belongs to the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and is a valued representative of Fellowship Lodge, F. & A. M. In religious faith he is a Universalist. His political support is given to the Republican party, of which he has been a staunch advocate since its organization. He has served as the township treasurer, and for many years has been a member of the town council of New Paris. A public-spirited and progressive citizen, he withholds his aid from no measure or movement which he believes would prove of public benefit along material, educational, social and moral lines. His life has been well spent, and his industry, commendable business methods and devotion to the public good have made his record one well worthy of emulation.

H. M. MARKLEY.

There are no rules for building character; there is no rule for achieving success; the man who can rise from the ranks to a position of eminence is he who can see and utilize the opportunities that surround his path. The essential conditions of human life are ever the same; the surroundings of the individual differ but slightly; but when one man passes another on the highway to reach the goal of prosperity before others who, perhaps, started out before him, it is because he has the power to use advantages which probably favor the whole human race. To-day among the most prominent business men of Preble county stands Mr. Markley, and his name at once brings to mind one of the most important industries of this locality. The history of such a man can not fail to be of wide interest, for he ranks high in industrial and financial circles and belongs to that class who owe their prominence entirely to their own efforts.

Mr. Markley was born at Smithville, near Canton, Ohio, January 5, 1848. His father, Benjamin Markley, was a native of Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, and, after arriving at years of maturity, wedded Miss Eliza Nicols, also of Harrisburg. In 1840 he emigrated westward, taking up his abode in Richland county, Ohio, where he died in January, 1875. He was an honest, conscientious and upright man and a very active member of the United Brethren church. His wife still survives him and at the advanced age of eighty-eight years is able to do her own housework. In the family of this worthy couple were twelve children, of whom four are now living, namely: Susan A., the widow of Albert Walker, of Washington, D. C.; H. M., of this review; Emma, the

wife of Eldridge Burns, of Washington, D. C.; and Charles S., who is living in Murphysboro, Illinois.

In the common schools of the neighborhood H. M. Markley pursued his education, but when very young was obliged to begin work, and aid in supporting the large family of which he was a member. When a youth of only fourteen he began work in a brickyard, and thus, although a wealthy man, his career had an humble beginning. The story of his life can be plainly told, a history of close application to business, of resolute purpose and unfaltering industry. He worked as a farm hand and also sold nursery stock, and as the years passed he increased his capital through industry and economy. In 1872 he entered into partnership with a man who was engaged in buying figured walnut in Ohio. Since that time he has dealt in hardwood lumber, and the enterprise has proved a very profitable one. In December, 1872, he removed to Eaton, where he has since made his home. The scarcity of walnut lumber has made it more valuable. In 1873 he purchased a walnut tree of a man near Columbus for twenty-five dollars and sold it for fifteen hundred dollars! He conducts hardwood lumber yards in Eaton, Urbana, Springfield, Osborne, Xenia, and other Ohio cities, and exports considerable lumber to London. His business has grown constantly in volume and importance and his sales are now extensive. He has recently discovered a tract of land on which are six hundred walnut trees and has purchased his choice of four hundred trees. This is a remarkable find at this time, owing to the scarcity of walnut groves. In addition to his large and important lumber business, Mr. Markley is engaged in farming,

owning and operating two hundred and ninety-five acres of valuable land in Preble county, near Eaton.

On the 26th of November, 1875, occurred the marriage of our subject and Miss Mary A. Dunlap. Their union has been blessed with four children, of whom three are living, namely: Dora A., the wife of Fred C. Filbert, of Eaton; Mabel L. and Walter R. His residence, recently completed and finished throughout in hardwood lumber, is one of the finest in the city.

Mr. Markley is a very public-spirited and progressive man, whose aid and co-operation are generously given to every measure which he believes will prove of public benefit. He has served as a member of the school board for ten years and school board treasurer for three years. He has also served in the city council. In his character there is something that might be termed solidity of purpose and which is a characteristic worthy of emulation. His school privileges were meager, yet in the school of experience he has learned lessons that have made him a well informed man, broad-minded and liberal in his views and with a charity that reaches out to all humanity. He is truly benevolent, and the poor and needy count him among their friends. His contributions to the church are liberal, and, though not a member of any Christian denomination, all churches have his respect and good will and often receive from his open purse substantial aid. He has made good use of his opportunities, has prospered from year to year and has conducted his business affairs carefully and successfully, displaying in all his acts an aptitude for successful management. He has not permitted the accumulation of wealth to affect in any way his

actions toward those less successful than he, and has always a cheerful word and pleasant smile for all with whom he comes in contact.

MRS. MARYLIS FLORY.

Mrs. Marylis Flory resides on one of the fine farms in Preble county, her home being in Gratis township. She is the widow of Henry Flory, who was born in Bedford county, Virginia, on the 30th of November, 1798, and died on this farm on the 24th of February, 1889, at the very advanced age of ninety-one years. Mrs. Flory was born in Tennessee, near Harper's Ferry, on the 12th of November, 1808, and when only sixteen and a half months old was brought to Preble county, in March, 1809. Her parents were Joseph and Susanna (Fortier) Pagin, both natives of Virginia, their marriage having been celebrated near Harper's Ferry, in that state, about 1806, the bride being seventeen years of age, the groom twenty-five. They removed to Tennessee and thence came to Ohio, the farmers entering eighty acres of land in Preble county, the purchase price being a dollar and a quarter per acre. After a long, hard struggle they managed to pay for this and purchased an adjoining eighty acres of Jesse Frame, a worthy Dunkard, of which religious faith the early settlers of the locality were all representatives. When the Pagins came to Preble county this was a vast, unbroken wilderness, and the red men had their homes in the forests, through which the wild beasts also roamed. The pioneers had to face great dangers, privations and toil, which none but the brave and sturdy could have borne. The only roads were bridle paths and grists were taken a long distance on horseback to mill. The salt used in cur-

ing the meat was brought from Cincinnati on horseback and other supplies were hauled from long distances. The first wheat which they raised was threshed on the bare ground, smoothed and beaten down, and the grain was winnowed with a sheet, shaken by two persons, one at each end. The first house was built of logs, with a stick-and-clay chimney, through which the smoke made its escape from a large fireplace, capable of holding immense logs. In the family were seventeen children, nine sons and eight daughters. The first death was that of Jacob, the third child, who passed away at the age of fourteen years. The other sixteen were all married and reared families of their own. The five surviving representatives of this family are: Mrs. Flory; Mrs. Susanna Bailey, a widow residing in California; Mrs. Drusilla Pagin, of New York city; David, who is a practicing physician in South Bend, Indiana, and Samuel, a physician of Valparaiso, Indiana, who is now a widower with five sons and one daughter.

The father of these children removed to La Porte county, Indiana, where his wife died of paralysis when about seventy-six years of age, he surviving her and passing away at the age of eighty-one years. Their son, Lewis, died at the age of eighty-one; Nancy at the age of seventy-five; and Henry, who practiced medicine both in Illinois and Indiana, was born in 1843, and died in January, 1899.

Mrs. Flory had just passed the seventeenth anniversary of her birth when she was married, on the 16th of December, 1825, to Henry Flory. They became the parents of the following named: Nancy, born February 24, 1827, is the first wife of Joseph Brubaker and had thirteen children; Joseph was born December 7, 1828; Elizabeth, December

7, 1829; Abram, November 27, 1831; and David, January 13, 1835; Jacob, who was born in 1838, and died at the age of twenty-eight years; and Daniel, born March 15, 1844, died at the age of nine months. The two sons and three daughters who reached mature years were married and had families, their aggregate number of children being sixty-three. Mrs. Flory's descendants now number two hundred and twenty-four, including eleven great-great-grandchildren.

Her husband died February 24, 1889, at the very advanced age of ninety years, two months and twenty-four days. He was a deacon in the Dunkard church for over thirty years. He took an active part in the early development of Preble county and did all in his power for its promotion and upbuilding. He built a part of the present home in 1839 and the large log barn, which is forty by eighty-five feet, in 1829. He cleared away the trees from two hundred and twenty-five acres of land and developed a splendid and valuable farm, of which he willed one hundred and twenty-five acres to his widow. This worthy couple traveled life's journey together for sixty-three years, sharing with each other its joys and sorrows, adversity and prosperity, their mutual love and confidence increasing as the days passed by. The husband died on the day previous to the sixty-second anniversary of the birth of their first child. Mrs. Flory is now well advanced in years, being the oldest person in the township, if not in the county. Her's has been a long life of domestic industry and happiness; and now, in her ninety-second year, she may be found daily with her sewing in hand, piecing fancy bed-quilts. She still has a closet full of bedding, including counterpanes and spreads, which she has

herself made. One of these was made by her when ten or twelve years old, and she spun, colored and wove the cloth. Nature endowed her not only with a strong constitution, but also with great energy and courage and a strong mind. Although she had but limited school privileges, she acquired much practical knowledge and was thus able to capably manage and control the affairs of her own household. Hers has been an earnest Christian life, crowned with the blessings which are ever accorded the faithful. Her sight and hearing are still unimpaired, and the years have brought much consolation and happiness, while her Christian experience has secured to her the peace that passeth all understanding.

SAMUEL M. GRIFFIS.

Samuel M. Griffis has for many years been identified with the agricultural interests of Preble county, but is now practically living retired. A well merited success has crowned his efforts and his career has been one of marked industry. He is now enabled to enjoy the rest which should come to all after long-continued labor in any of the channels of legitimate business activity. Honorable and trustworthy in all transactions, he enjoys the unqualified regard of his fellow men.

Mr. Griffis was born on Paris road, Washington township, Preble county, three miles northwest of Eaton, on the 29th of December, 1837. His parents were John and Catherine (Null) Griffis, and in their family were twelve children, of whom three are yet living. The father was born in 1789, in Wales, and when a child of six years came with his parents to America. After traveling over the country in search of a location

they finally settled near Springboro, Warren county, Ohio, where the grandparents spent their remaining days. There the father of our subject was reared to manhood and was married. With his bride he came to Preble county, locating on the farm where the birth of our subject occurred. He entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government and to its cultivation and development he devoted his energies until his death, which occurred in 1861. He was a very successful farmer, energetic and enterprising, and in the practical affairs of life he acquired a handsome competence. He was a very ardent supporter of the Democratic party and its principles, and while he always refused to accept office for himself he labored earnestly to promote the growth and insure the success of his party, believing it to contain the best elements of good government. He was frequently chosen as a delegate to county and state conventions, and his opinions carried weight in Democratic channels. His wife was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, and was a daughter of George Null, who came to Ohio in pioneer days, locating in Warren county, where he became a well-known and prominent farmer. Mrs. Griffis enjoyed the esteem of a large circle of acquaintances, and her death was mourned by all of her many friends.

Samuel M. Griffis, whose name introduces this record, was reared upon the home farm, obtaining his education in the common schools of the neighborhood. He pursued his studies in the winter months and in the summer aided in the labors of the field and meadow. After attaining his majority he worked for his father as a farm hand for two years, and on the expiration of that period was given the charge of the farm which he operated on the shares. In 1861 his father

died, and he continued farming on the old homestead until 1864. In that year he was united in marriage to Miss Rebecca Blinn, a native of Warren county born in Clear Creek township. Her parents, George and Susan Blinn, were also natives of Warren county, and there spent their entire lives. Both represented old Virginia families who sent their representatives into Ohio at an early period in the development of the Buckeye state. After his marriage Mr. Griffis took up his abode upon his father-in-law's farm, which he operated for two years, after which he came to Preble county. He purchased one hundred and twenty acres on section 2, Jackson township, and located upon the place, making it his home until 1887, when he removed to his present residence on section 11, Jackson township. He had purchased that property two or three years previously, becoming the owner of two hundred acres of rich land, which is now in a high state of cultivation and improved with all modern improvements and accessories. It is now one of the very best farms in the county, and the substantial buildings on the place stand as monuments of the thrift and enterprise of the owner, the well-tilled fields indicating his careful supervision and golden harvests crowning his labors. His work has been favored with a high degree of success, and he now owns two good farms in Preble county, besides good residence property in Eaton; but during the past seven years he has practically lived retired, although he devotes some time to the supervision of his investments.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Griffis have been born seven children: Anna F., the wife of Thomas Bowers, a farmer of Jackson township; George Franklin, who resides in Eaton and is a representative of the De Laval Cream Separator Company; Albert Roscoe,

a practicing attorney at the Eaton bar; Ida May, the wife of Ora Oler, a farmer of Wayne county, Indiana; Emma J., at home; Mary E., the wife of Edward Jackson, who is operating the home farm in connection with John W. Griffis, our subject's youngest child. The mother of these children died January 16, 1899. For thirty-six years they had traveled life's journey together, sharing with each other its joys and sorrows, adversity and prosperity, and as the years passed their mutual love and confidence increased. The loss of the wife and mother was a sad blow to the family, and throughout the community her death was mourned, for she was a lady whose many excellencies of character won her the esteem and confidence of all who knew her.

In his political views Mr. Griffis has always been an ardent Democrat, unwavering in his support of the principles of the party. He, too, has ever refused to become a candidate for office, having no political aspirations, but has many times served as a delegate to the Democratic conventions. He and his wife were for many years members of the United Brethren church, in which Mr. Griffis served as steward; but when there was a division in the church they allowed their membership to lapse. The life record of our subject stands in exemplification of what may be accomplished by determined purpose when guided by sound judgment and practical common sense, and today he is classified among the most substantial residents of Preble county, and through his active business career his reputation has remained unassailable, for at all times he has been true to duty and to every manly principle.

In 1900 Mr. Griffis visited portions of Pennsylvania and then Washington, D. C.;

and after spending about ten days in New York city he set sail for Paris, France, on June 6, and landed at Southampton the following Wednesday. He visited the Paris Exposition. His son, A. R. Griffis, made the trip with him from New York. They visited London, Liverpool and Chester, and traveled through Wales, and returning to America and landing at New York, passed up the Hudson, visited Newberry, and then Philadelphia, Washington, Gettysburg and other places.

ROBERT E. LOWRY.

Robert Eaton Lowry was born in Delaware county, Ohio, November 2, 1845, his parents being Andrew J. and Elizabeth (Cunningham) Lowry, the latter a native of Delaware county and the former of Ireland, whence he was brought to America by his parents during his infancy. The family located on the James river, seventy-five miles below Richmond, and there remained for seven years, after which they came to Ohio in 1828, locating in Delaware county. The father of our subject was a farmer by occupation and followed that pursuit throughout his active business career. He died in January, 1893, but his wife is still living in Delaware county. They have a family of five children who yet survive, namely: Robert E.; Mrs. Julia Grennan, of Oxford, Butler county, Ohio, whose husband has been a teacher in the Oxford high school since April, 1866; Phoebe L., wife of William O. Dixon, of Liberty, Delaware county; Mrs. Mary E. Randall, of Claiborne, Union county, Ohio; and Philo John, who is a railroad conductor, making his home in Wellington, Kansas.

Mr. Lowry, of this review, having ac-

quired his preliminary education in the common schools, continued his studies in the Central College of Franklin county, Ohio, and in the Miami University, being graduated in the latter, on the completion of the Latin and scientific course, in 1871. He then devoted his attention to educational labors, successfully teaching in Butler, Preble and Montgomery counties until May, 1885. He became a resident of Preble county in August, 1873, and in 1884 he was elected county surveyor, serving for six years as surveyor and engineer. In 1891 he began the study of law under Judge J. W. King, and was admitted to the bar in 1893, after which he opened an office in Eaton, practicing alone in this city until January 1, 1900, when he formed a partnership with his old preceptor, Judge King. This firm enjoys a liberal patronage. While alone in practice Mr. Lowry followed civil engineering and surveying to some extent and still owns his instruments.

On the 29th of December, 1872, occurred the marriage of Mr. Lowry and Miss Emily Hamilton, a native of Butler county, Ohio, a daughter of Robert and Mary C. (Fuller) Hamilton. The father was a Scotchman and the mother was a native of Connecticut. Mrs. Lowry was educated in the public schools of Kokomo, Indiana, and for several years before her marriage and for five years after her marriage she successfully engaged in teaching. Mr. Lowry is a representative of the Masonic fraternity in which he has attained the Royal Arch degree, and in the chapter has served as principal sojourner. He is also a member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity. During the civil war he enlisted four times, but was taken out by his father each time on account of his youth. The fourth time, however, he was

mustered into the service before his father arrived on the scene and this necessitated a discharge from the service. He is very proud of the old parchment which indicated that he was a member of the army. His father enlisted in the One Hundred and Forty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, serving for one hundred days. By reason of his enlistment Mr. Lowry is entitled to membership in the Grand Army of the Republic, and belongs to the post of Eaton. He has always been a staunch friend of the soldier, having a just appreciation of the great work which the boys in blue did for their country. He is one of the city school examiners of Eaton and has always taken an active interest in educational matters. He served for two terms, from April, 1896, until April, 1898, as mayor of Eaton. His wife is a member of the Disciples church, and he was reared in the Presbyterian faith, but is not now identified with any denomination.

JACOB MILLER.

This representative agriculturist, who owns and cultivates a well-improved and valuable farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres on section 11, Monroe township, Preble county, Ohio, is a native of this state, born near Salem, in Montgomery county, November 24, 1833, and is a son of John and Tena (Hensel) Miller, who were born, reared and married in Maryland, in which state our subject's grandfather, Michael Miller, spent his entire life. At an early day the parents came to Ohio and first settled in Montgomery county, but later removed to Gratis township, Preble county, where they spent the remainder of their lives, the father dying at the age of seventy-seven years, the mother at the age of sixty-four. By occupation he

was a farmer. Of their six children one died in infancy, but the others are still living, namely: Michael, a resident of Darke county, Ohio; Jacob, our subject; Susanna, the wife of George Longman; Mary, the wife of Sylvester Smith; and John, the youngest, is a resident of Monroe township, this county. Catherine, the next to the youngest, is the one deceased.

The subject of this sketch was very small when brought by his parents to this county, and in Gratis township he was reared and educated in much the usual manner of farmer boys of his day. On the 24th of November, 1857, he was united in marriage with Miss Esther A. Kirkpatrick, who was born in the little town of Jacksonburg, Butler county, Ohio, December 17, 1838, a daughter of John and Kasiah (Eslinger) Kirkpatrick, pioneers of this state. Mrs. Miller was their only daughter, but she had one brother, John, who died in 1898. She was reared in Preble county, near the Butler county line. Our subject and his wife have three children: Cora, at home; Cloa Jane, a teacher, residing at home; and Allen Orrin, a photographer of Dayton, Ohio.

For nine years after his marriage Mr. Miller cultivated his father's farm in Gratis township, and then removed to Twin township, where he purchased a farm and lived for seven years. At the end of that period he sold his property and bought his present fine farm of one hundred and thirty-five acres on section 11, Monroe township, to the further improvement and cultivation of which he has since devoted his energies with most gratifying results. The success that he has achieved in life is due to his own well directed efforts, and he is now one of the well-to-do, as well as one of the highly respected, men of his community. In his political af-

filiations he is a Republican, having been identified with that party since its organization, though his first vote was for a Whig candidate.

FREDERICK MICHAEL.

Frederick Michael was for a number of years one of the enterprising merchants of Eaton, where he conducted a prosperous business, his success now enabling him to live retired. Clearly defined purpose and continued effort in the affairs of life will eventuate in the attaining of a due measure of success, and with a thorough understanding of this fact Mr. Michael applied himself closely to the careful conduct of his business interests.

Maryland has furnished many worthy and prominent citizens to Preble county, and among the number is Mr. Michael, who was born in Frederick county, that state, on the 14th of December, 1823. His father, Jacob Michael, was a native of the same county, where also occurred the birth of Peter Michael, the grandfather. The family, however, is of German lineage and was founded on American soil by the great-grandfather of our subject, who became one of the first settlers of Maryland. He was led to seek a home in the new world on account of religious persecution, and in the colony where he took up his abode he found the freedom to worship God after the dictates of his conscience. Peter Michael became a resident of Ohio, taking up his abode in Montgomery county in 1836. Jacob Michael, the father of our subject, was an enterprising farmer and an earnest Christian gentleman whose views were far in advance of his time, for he believed it wrong to hold people in human bondage, and therefore would have nothing to do with the institution of slavery. He

wedded Mary Easterday, a daughter of Christian Easterday, and they became the parents of seven children, but only two are now living, the daughter being Elizabeth, the widow of Levi Jenkins. The father died at the early age of thirty-three years, and the mother, long surviving him, passed away in 1877.

Mr. Michael, of this review, spent the first fifteen years of his life in Maryland and in the common schools pursued his education. In 1838 he came to Ohio with his mother, the father having died in the meantime. They located in Warren county, where his educational opportunities were quite limited. His training at farm work was not meager, however, for between the ages of nine and seventeen he devoted much time to the work of the fields. The family was large and, as the death of the father left them in quite limited circumstances, his labors were needed in support of the family. At the age of seventeen he began to learn the shoemaker's trade, serving a three-years apprenticeship. He was married in 1844, to Miss Mary Witheroe, a daughter of Adam Witheroe, and to them were born five children, of whom three are now living, namely: F. M., a practicing physician of Eaton; Thomas C., of Fort Wayne; and M. F., who is living in Eaton. The mother of these children died in 1851.

After his marriage Mr. Michael worked at his trade for two years in Warren county, and then conducted a store for a year. He was engaged in the dairy business through one season, keeping on hand one hundred cows and shipping milk to Cincinnati. In 1848 he took up his abode in Winchester, Preble county, where he conducted a shoe store for a time. He then sold out, but subsequently returned to Winchester, where he

remained for three years, engaged in general merchandising. He also made his home in Darke county for a time, and in 1873 he came to Eaton, where he opened a drug store, which he conducted for three years. He then sold the business to his son. His mercantile career has been one of the most honorable, and he has made the golden rule the guide of his life.

In his political views Mr. Michael has been an active Republican, keeping well informed on the issues of the day. He has served as a member of the city council and as trustee, discharging his duties with marked promptness and fidelity. In his social relations he is an Odd Fellow, and has held all of the offices in his lodge. His business ability has been quite marked, and in addition to his mercantile interests he has perfected a number of patents. A man of keen discernment and enterprise, creditable success followed his labors and he is now the possessor of a comfortable competence. One of his chief sources of recreation has been fishing, and many pleasant hours he has passed in the woods with his gun. His honesty is proverbial, and all who have known him have had the utmost confidence in his word. His life indeed has been honorable and upright. Profanity has never issued from his lips, and he has had the strictest regard for morality along all lines. He has never played cards, nor has he indulged in any questionable pleasures which are sometimes harmful. His life is indeed well worthy of emulation, and all who know him esteem him for his sterling character.

F. M. MICHAEL, M. D.

The character and career of Dr. Michael, engaged in the practice of medicine in Eaton, suggests to us the following reflections. The

world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been worthily achieved, who has attained wealth by honorable business methods, acquired the highest reputation in his chosen calling by merit, and whose social prominence is not less the result of an irreproachable life than of recognized natural gifts. We pay the highest tribute to the heroes who on bloody battle-fields win victories and display a valor that is the admiration of the world. Why should the tribute be withheld from those who wage the bloodless battles of civil life, who are conquerors in the world of business? Greater than in almost any line of work is the responsibility that rests upon the physician. The issues of life and death are in his hands. A false prescription, an unskilled operation may take from man that which he prizes above all else—life. The physician's power must be his own: not by purchase, by gift or by influence can he gain it. He must commence at the very beginning, learn the very rudiments of medicine and surgery, continually add to his knowledge by close study and earnest application and gain reputation on merit. If he would gain the highest prominence it must come as the result of superior skill, knowledge and ability, and these qualifications are possessed in an eminent degree by Dr. Michael.

He was born in Gratis township, December 27, 1849, a son of Frederick and Mary (Witheroe) Michael. His father was a native of Frederick county, Maryland, and the grandfather and great-grandfather both bore the name of Jacob Michael. The latter was a native of Germany, and, emigrating to America in colonial days, he loyally served his adopted country in the war of the Revolution. Emigrating westward, Frederick Michael took up his abode in Warren county,

Ohio, and in 1840 removed to Gratis township, Preble county. He engaged in merchandising in the town of Gratis and in 1873 came to Eaton, where was also connected with the commercial interests of the city for some time. Dr. Michael pursued his preliminary education in the common schools, after which he continued his studies in Winchester and was also a student in the Southwestern Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio, being graduated on the completion of the four-years course. He then went to Dayton, where he was engaged in the drug business, working five years without losing a single day, even Sundays. In 1873 he came to Eaton, where he was engaged in the drug business for six years, when he went to New York and entered the Bellevue Hospital, continuing his studies there from 1876 until his graduation in 1879. Returning to Eaton, he opened an office and engaged in the practice of medicine here until 1882, when he went to Europe, remaining abroad for a year. He continued his studies and investigation in the hospitals of London and Vienna, attending many clinics in those cities. He now engages in general practice and has always been very successful as a surgeon, and is one of the best informed practitioners in this section of the state.

In November, 1884, Dr. Michael was united in marriage to Miss Minnie V. Foss, a daughter of J. H. Foss. They now have two children—Mary and J. A. Their home is noted for its generous hospitality, and both the Doctor and his wife have a very large circle of friends in Eaton. Socially he is connected with the Masonic and the Knights of Pythias fraternities. In 1880 he was elected coroner and served for one term, but since that time has never sought or desired public office, preferring to devote

his time and energies to his practice, which is constantly growing in volume and importance. He is recognized as the best surgeon and has the largest practice in the county. He is a member of the Preble County Medical Society and is a deep and thorough student who keeps constantly abreast with the times in medical and many other lines. From the faithful performance of each day's duties he finds inspiration and encouragement for the work of the next. His professional skill is comprehensive and accurate, and his reputation is indeed well merited. The Doctor is a social, genial gentleman, interested in all that pertains to the welfare of his county, state and nation, and his friendship is most prized by those who know him best. In his professional capacity he is widely known, his reputation extending far beyond the limits of the county.

SAMUEL S. BLACK.

The task of writing the biographies of the living representative men of any community is an exceedingly difficult one, because of the prevailing modesty of the successful business man, who almost invariably manifests a certain repugnance to anything that smacks of personal notoriety or prominence and thus discourages even friendly attempts to uncover the secret of his success. Genuine success is not likely to be the result of mere chance or fortune, but is something to be labored for and sought out with consecutive effort. Ours is a utilitarian age, and the life of every successful man bears a lesson which, as told in contemporary narration, perhaps is productive of the greatest good. Thus there is a due measure of satisfaction in presenting even the briefest

resume of the life and accomplishments of such a man.

Mr. Black is universally recognized as one of the most prominent business men of Preble county, being connected with many of its leading enterprises which contribute to the general prosperity as well as to his individual success. He was born in Preble county, July 22, 1838, and is of German lineage. His ancestors were the owners of Schwartzwald—the Black Forest—in Germany. The first ancestor sought a home in the new world at a very early period in its settlement. The grandfather of our subject, John Black, was one of the heroes of the Revolution. At the age of seventeen he joined the service and fought throughout the entire war for independence. After the colonies had gained their liberty he came to Ohio, where he entered land from the government and later purchased other tracts, becoming one of the most extensive land-owners in this section of the state. He was the father of nine children, and as each attained maturity he gave to them one hundred and sixty acres of land. He died in 1822, at the age of sixty-six years, his birth having occurred in 1756. Abraham Black, the father of our subject, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, August 30, 1807, and when a child of four years was brought by his parents to Preble county. He was reared on the home farm a half mile south of West Alexandria, becoming familiar with all the experiences and hardships of life on the frontier.

During the civil war he responded to the country's call for aid, enlisting in Company E, Thirty-fifth Ohio Infantry, with which he served for three years. After the battle of Chattanooga he was captured, but soon made his escape. When the war was ended he returned to his home in Preble county, and

here spent his declining days. He married Nancy Stoner, who was born in Preble county, in 1807, a daughter of Benedict and Keziah (Melvin) Stoner, who came to Preble county, Ohio, in 1805, from Frederick, Maryland. They located a half mile east of West Alexandria, where they spent their remaining days. The father conducted a distillery for many years. Mr. and Mrs. Black had six children, three of whom are yet living: David, a prominent farmer of Preble county; Catherine, the widow of Lewis Cupp, of Dayton, Ohio; and Samuel S. Throughout his entire life Abraham Black was engaged in agricultural pursuits. He was an active member of the Lutheran church and in early manhood gave his political support to the Whig party. On its dissolution he joined the ranks of the Republican party and was ever afterward one of its staunch advocates. He filled many local township offices, but never sought or desired political preferment. His death occurred in 1875, when he had attained the age of sixty-eight years.

Samuel S. Black, whose name introduces this review, was reared under the parental roof and to a limited extent attended the common schools, but is mostly self-educated, his extensive reading and strong mentality making him a well informed man. After the inauguration of hostilities between the north and the south he determined to aid in defense of the Union and joined the "boys in blue" of Company G, Ninety-third Ohio Volunteer Infantry, enlisting August 23, 1862, as a teamster. After serving one day he was made wagon master and later became a member of the band, with which he was connected until the band instruments were taken and part of the band captured at Murfreesboro. Mr. Black was then engaged on

detached duty until assigned to routine duty at the brigade headquarters. On the 19th of September, 1863, at Chickamauga, while removing teams on the battle-field, it was by accident that he received a fracture of the right leg, in consequence of which he was on the convalescent list in different hospitals for some months. After recovering he was assigned to duty on the hospital boat, Charles McDugle, where he served throughout the remainder of his term of enlistment, receiving an honorable discharge on the 28th of December, 1864. He participated in the battles of Perryville, Murfreesboro, Liberty Gap and Chickamauga, together with many skirmishes.

After his return from the army Mr. Black purchased a photograph car and devoted his attention to the business for some time, after which he opened a blacksmith and wagon shop. Not long afterward, however, he ran an oil wagon and following that was engaged in the sewing machine business for three years, during which time he sold more machines in the same district than any other man in a similar period, his sales amounting to eighteen thousand dollars. In 1873 he began buying tobacco, in partnership with Peter Smith, this business concern being maintained for ten years. Afterward Mr. Black continued in the business on his own account, and in 1893 became associated in the tobacco business with John Block. They are now one of the leading tobacco firms (Block & Black) in Ohio, buying tobacco and shipping it to all parts of the world.

Our subject is a man of resourceful business ability whose efforts have by no means been confined to one enterprise, although that one is very extensive. In 1888 he was the prime mover in the organization of the Twin Valley Bank, which is now conducted by

the firm of S. S. Black & Company. In 1900 he was instrumental in organizing the Gem Canning Company of West Alexandria, for the purpose of canning corn and tomatoes. He is the president of the company, and under capable management the business has already given promise of gratifying success. Mr. Black's property interests are also valuable. He owns three hundred acres of land near West Alexandria, together with much property in the city. His labors have indeed been crowned with a high degree of success, yet it has resulted merely from close application, untiring industry and capable management.

Mr. Black is a member of Lanier Lodge, No. 521, I. O. O. F., and has filled all its chairs. He belongs to Gem City Lodge, No. 8, F. & A. M., of Dayton, and has attained the thirty-second degree in the Scottish rite consistory at Columbus. He also belongs to Parmelee Horn Post, G. A. R., of Lewisburg. He has proved himself in all the relations of life an earnest, honest and upright man and a citizen of whom any community might be justly proud.

JOHN B. GLANDER.

John B. Glander has long been actively connected with agricultural interests in Preble county. He was born in the dukedom of Brunswick, Germany, September 3, 1835, a son of Ludeke and Adeline (Shumaker) Glander. His great-grandfather was John Glander, who was an only son. The grandfather of our subject also bore the name of John Glander, and was born in the dukedom of Brunswick, in 1774. He married Rebecca Kahlenbeck, who was born in the same locality in 1779. His death occurred in 1850, while his wife passed away

in 1857. They belonged to one of the wealthy and influential families of their section of Germany and the farm which they owned was an extensive one, which had been in possession of the Glander family for many generations.

Six of their sons emigrated to America. John, the eldest, crossed the Atlantic in the early '30s, locating in Preble county, where he built and operated a distillery, located on the Eaton and Dayton pike, then known as the Cumberland pike, and on the present site of the Claypoole mill. There he engaged in the manufacture of whiskey until 1857, when the distillery was destroyed by fire. Henry and Detrich Glander, two other sons of the family, came to the United States about 1837 and built a distillery on Banta Fork, two miles south of West Alexandria. There they conducted an extensive business, furnishing employment to many workmen up to the time of the breaking out of the civil war, when the enterprise became unprofitable and they retired from the trade.

It was in the year 1851 that Ludeke Glander, the father of our subject, bade adieu to home and friends in Germany and sailed for the United States. He landed at New Orleans, on the 28th of November, and after a ten-days trip on the river arrived at Cincinnati, Ohio, whence he made his way by train to Hamilton and from there by wagon to Preble county. On his arrival here he took up his abode on Banta Fork, in Lanier township, and through the five succeeding years worked for his brothers, Henry and Detrich, making his home with the latter. His wife had died in Germany, and in 1856, when his daughter had reached an age sufficient to assume the care of the household, he purchased a farm of eighty acres in Lanier township and removed with

his family to his new home, where he resided until his death. He was a member of the Lutheran church and in his political affiliations was a Democrat. His sterling worth won for him the high regard of all with whom he came in contact and he was known as one of the valued residents of his community. His wife, who was born in the dukedom of Brunswick, in 1808, passed away on the 18th of October, 1849. She was a daughter of Selka and Hadwick Shumaker and belonged to one of the old and wealthy families of that section of Germany, where her parents lived and died. Mr. and Mrs. Glander became the parents of five children, all of whom are yet living, namely: John B.; Henry S., a farmer of Lanier township, Preble county; Detrich S., also an agriculturist of Lanier township; Rebecca, who resides in Montgomery county; and Annie, the wife of John Meyer, a farmer of Lanier township.

Mr. Glander, whose name introduces this review, spent the first sixteen years of his life in the Fatherland and acquired his education in the parochial schools of that country. He then came to America and on his arrival here began working in his uncle Detrich's distillery, where he was employed for thirteen years. On the 14th of February, 1865, he was united in marriage to Miss Margaret Lehmkuhl, a native of Hanover, Germany, who came to America with her mother when a child of eleven years, her father having died in Germany. The year of their emigration was 1848. The mother and daughter took up their abode in Preble county, living with Richard Myers, an uncle of Mrs. Glander. After their marriage our subject and his wife resided upon the Myers homestead, where the uncle also made his home until his death in 1874. He

then willed his farm of eighty acres to Mrs. Glander and our subject has since engaged in the cultivation of the land, to which he added a tract of fifty-two acres in 1868. In 1879 he also purchased ninety-one acres, situated on section 10, Lanier township, on the West Alexandria and Winchester pike, where his son, Richard, now resides. In his farming operations our subject has been very successful and is regarded as one of the substantial citizens of his community. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Glander have been born seven children: Harmon, a prominent merchant of West Alexandria; Richard, who is living on his father's farm; Charles, of the firm of Oxer & Glander, general merchants of West Alexandria; Adeline; George and Caroline, twins, the former on the home farm and the latter in the store of Oxer & Glander; and Frederick, who also assists in the operation of the home farm. Mr. Glander has provided well for his children, aiding all to gain a good start as they reached years of maturity. He is a member of the Lutheran church and for twenty-five years has served either as deacon or trustee in the church. He votes with the Democracy, but is not strictly partisan and has never sought or desired office, although he has been solicited to become a candidate for the office of township trustee. As a citizen he is public spirited and progressive and withholds his support from no movement or measure which he believes will promote the general welfare. The cause of education finds in him a warm friend and he does all in his power to advance public progress. His success in life has been the reward of his own efforts. He entered upon his business career without capital, has worked his way steadily upward and has overcome obstacles and difficulties in his path by determined

and resolute purpose. His life stands in exemplification of what may be accomplished in this land of the free by those who are resolute and determined.

JOHN R. CREAGER.

This thrifty and progressive farmer, residing on section 14, Monroe township, Preble county, Ohio, was born in Montgomery county, this state, March 14, 1832, and is a son of Peter and Elizabeth (Rike) Creager, both natives of Maryland, where their early life was passed. The paternal grandfather of our subject is supposed to have been a native of Germany. About 1825 the father came to Ohio and located on a farm in Montgomery county, where he made his home for twelve years, and then removed to Whitley county, Indiana, where in the midst of the forest he cleared and improved a farm of one hundred and twenty-five acres, making his home there until called to his final rest at the age of seventy-two years. In religious faith he was a Lutheran. The mother of our subject died at the age of eighty years. She was the second wife of Peter Creager. By his first marriage he had six children, three sons, William, Henry and Samuel, and three daughters, Catherine, Sophia and Charlota, all now deceased. The children of the second union were Ezra and Adam, both deceased; Christian, Levi, Peter, Lydia M., deceased, and John R.

The subject of this review was five years old when the family removed to Whitley county, Indiana, where he remained until eighteen, attending the public schools, which were then conducted in a log building with a puncheon floor, slab seats, desks resting on pins driven into the wall, and a huge fireplace, large enough to hold wood six feet

long. At the age of eighteen he came to Preble county, Ohio, where he lived with his brother Ezra four years while working as a farm hand by the month and year.

Here Mr. Creager married Miss Julia Banfill, a native of this county, and a daughter of John and Hanna (Price) Banfill, the former a native of New Hampshire and the latter a native of Virginia. She is the youngest and only survivor of their family of nine children, the others being Samuel, Asa, John P., Polly, Lucinda, Jane, Rachel and Elizabeth. To Mr. and Mrs. Creager were born three children, of whom Joseph A., the eldest, is deceased; Jestina Alice is now the wife of Henry S. Clark, of West Manchester, Preble county, and John Oscar Creager, educated at the National Normal University at Lebanon, Ohio, the Ohio State University and Yale College, and is finishing at Harvard College a course in philosophy. He married Leoti Fudge, a daughter of Wilson Fudge, and a representative of a prominent old family of this county. She is a graduate of the Lebanon Normal School at Lebanon, Ohio, and successfully engaged in teaching elocution for a time. Besides their own, Mr. and Mrs. Creager have reared two other children: Peter Burwell, from the age of five years, and Bert Brenner, from the age of four. Joseph A., the oldest, died in 1895, aged 39. He married May Rodkey, and at his death left a son, Roy Elsworth.

For a year after his marriage Mr. Creager lived on a farm belonging to Allen Risinger in Washington township, and the following two years were passed on the Jacob Swartzel farm in the same township, at the end of which time he removed to a farm near West Manchester, in Monroe township, making his home there for three years. He then returned to Whitley county,

Indiana, and ran his father's old homestead for thirteen years, in the meantime having purchased the property. He also bought eighty acres adjoining, and lived there about three years, at the end of which time he sold both places and bought the farm on section 14, Monroe township, Preble county, where he now resides. He resided there until 1893, when he removed to a farm south of that place, but at the end of three years he sold the latter and returned to his present farm, consisting of one hundred and fifty acres, which he has placed under excellent cultivation. In connection with general farming he has operated a threshing machine for about twelve years, and in both enterprises is meeting with good success.

Mr. Creager cast his first presidential vote for Franklin Pierce, and supported for several years the Democratic party and later the Prohibition party, but in 1896 voted for William J. Bryan, the candidate of the Democratic and Populist parties. He served one term as a trustee of Monroe township, and for a number of years as a director of the sub-school districts; and in all the relations of life has been found true to every trust reposed in him. He and his wife are active and prominent members of the Universalist church of Eldorado, and are highly respected by all who know them. He is the president of the Creager Family Reunion Association.

STEPHEN H. CLOYD, M. D.

Dr. Cloyd is a prominent physician and surgeon of West Manchester, and has that love for and devotion to his profession which has brought to him success and won him a place among the ablest representatives of the medical fraternity in Preble county, his

practice being probably as large as that of any other physician within its borders.

The Doctor was born July 3, 1861, one mile south of Ithaca, in Darke county, Ohio, and is a son of Gordon S. and Susan (Hoops) Cloyd, both natives of Montgomery county, the former born two miles and a half east of West Alexandria, the latter four miles west of Farmerville. On the paternal side he traces his ancestry back to Michael Cloyd, a native of England, who came to America in 1700, and located in Virginia. He was robbed by the Indians, who killed his wife and some of his children. His son was the Doctor's great-grandfather. The grandfather, Stephen Cloyd, was born on Cloyd Mountain, Kentucky, which was named in honor of the family, and at an early day came to Montgomery county, Ohio, where he took up a tract of government land, upon which he spent the remainder of his life. He died at the age of ninety-five years, one month and twelve days. Our subject's maternal grandfather, Daniel Hoops, is a farmer of Montgomery county, and although over ninety years of age is still very active and goes to town twice a week, a distance of four miles. He is of German descent.

Gordon S. Cloyd, the Doctor's father, received a common school education, and became a very prominent and successful farmer and stock raiser both of Preble and Darke counties. He owned a beautiful home in Darke county, which was built at a cost of five thousand dollars. He is now living in Oklahoma and is extensively engaged in stock raising. In his religious views he is a Dunkard or German Baptist, and being elected a preacher of that sect he now has pastoral charge of a church in Oklahoma. To him and his wife were born seven chil-

dren, namely: Stephen H., our subject; Mary Ann; William, a stock farmer of Oklahoma; Ida, the wife of Henry Fellers, of Oklahoma; Perry, a resident of the same territory; Laura, the wife of Albert Carr, of Oklahoma; and Emma, wife of Edgar Hart, of Missouri.

Dr. Cloyd received a good practical education in the district schools of the state, and passed the examination for teacher at Greenville in 1880. For three years he studied medicine with Dr. Welbourn at Union City, Indiana, for his preceptor, and then entered the Eclectic Medical Institute in Cincinnati, at which he was graduated in 1887. He was first engaged in practice at Cunningham, Kingman county, Kansas, where he remained seven years, and then came to West Manchester, Ohio, where his skill and ability were soon widely recognized and where he was not long in building up an excellent practice.

On the 20th of July, 1882, Dr. Cloyd was united in marriage with Miss Lizzie Fellers, a daughter of John and Sarah Fellers. She was born in Illinois, but was reared in Darke county, Ohio, attended the same school as her husband and passed the examination for teacher at the same time. They have one son, Earl, who will, if nothing should prevent, graduate at the high school of West Manchester in 1901.

The Doctor passed the examination given by the board of medical examiners at Portland, Oregon, in 1890, and now holds five certificates and one diploma. During his residence in Kansas he was the medical examiner for the Modern Woodmen of that state, also pension examiner and surgeon for the Wichita & Western Railroad Company. He is now the examiner for the New York Life Insurance Company and the Brother-

hood Accident Company of the I. O. O. F., of Boston, Massachusetts; is a member of the Western Ohio Medical Association and the Alumni Association of the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati; and is the examining physician and surgeon of St. Luke's Hospital at Niles, Michigan. Socially he is a member of the Odd Fellows Lodge, No. 520, of West Manchester, and also of the Modern Woodmen of America. He is a strong temperance man and is independent in politics, at local elections voting for the man whom he believes best qualified to fill the office. As a citizen he ever stands ready to discharge any duty devolving upon him, but his extensive practice requires the greater part of his time and attention.

BRUCE SAYRES.

The spirit of self-help is the only source of genuine worth in the individual. A modern philosophical writer has aptly said: "Within yourself lies the cause of whatever enters into your life. To come into the full realization of your own awakened interior powers, is to be able to condition your life in exact accord with what you would make it." It is this understanding of his business ability and the exercise of those forces which are common to the race, or may be cultivated—industry, enterprise and close application—that has made Mr. Sayres successful in business affairs. His qualities as a man and a citizen commend him to the confidence and regard of his fellow townsmen, making him one of the popular residents of his community.

Mr. Sayres is a native of Warren county, Ohio, born September 25, 1851. His father, George W. Sayres, was a native of New Jersey, and in 1840 emigrated westward to

Warren county. He was a farmer and mechanic, and was not only active in his business affairs but also neglected not his duty to his fellow men and was a consistent and faithful member of the Baptist church. He wedded Mary Kever, a daughter of Abraham Kever, and they became the parents of five children, of whom three are now living: Mary and Caroline living in Monroe, Ohio; and Bruce. The father died in 1866 and the mother, surviving him for many years, passed away in 1880.

Bruce Sayres is indebted to the public school system for the educational advantages afforded him, and experience in the active affairs of life has greatly supplemented his knowledge, while reading has made him a well informed man on subjects of general interest. He spent his youth on his father's farm, and early became familiar with the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. In 1882 he removed to Monroe, Ohio, where he began to buy and ship stock, his early experience on the farm having made him an excellent judge of stock, so that he was enabled to intelligently prosecute his labors in his new venture. He prospered in the new undertaking, which he continued in Monroe until 1889, when he removed to Middletown, Ohio, where he remained until 1896, the year of his arrival in Eaton. He buys horses throughout Ohio and other states and ships to New York and other large cities. Purchasers throughout the country also come to Eaton to buy his stock. He does a very extensive business, being one of the largest horse dealers in this section of the country. He has handled many fine horses and succeeded in selling many for high prices. His annual sales have reached large proportions, and his well conducted business interests

have brought to him richly deserved success. His business methods are ever honorable, and wherever Mr. Sayres is known his name is synonymous with reliability in trade transactions.

On the 29th of October, 1889, Mr. Sayres was united in marriage to Miss Laura May Bruce, a daughter of Hardin Bruce, whose father was the first settler of Eaton and laid out the town. Mr. and Mrs. Sayres occupy an enviable position in social circles, and their own home is celebrated for its gracious hospitality. They have recently erected one of the finest residences in Eaton, which was planned by Mrs. Sayres. Its pleasing architectural style, beautiful interior finishing and rich adornments all indicate the refined and cultured taste of the inmates, and the walls are adorned with many beautiful paintings which are the work of Mrs. Sayres, whose artistic ability is most marked. She shares her husband's love of fine horses, and always has an excellent specimen of the noble steed for her own use.

DETRICK S. GLANDER.

There is no element in our complex national fabric which has contributed in a larger measure to industrial stability and legitimate progress than that furnished by the German fatherland, and as a worthy representative of this sterling stock we revert with satisfaction to a review of the genealogy and personal accomplishments of him whose name appears above. Though not a native of America, he is thoroughly "to the manner born," having been but eight years of age when his parents emigrated from the fatherland to America.

Mr. Glander was born in the province of

Brunswick, Germany, on the 20th of May, 1843, the son of Ludeke and Adeline (Shu-maker) Glander, both of whom were of sterling old German lineage. The father located in Lanier township and our subject grew to maturity at the old home, receiving his educational discipline in the common schools. Detailed mention of his parents is made in the sketch of John B. Glander, appearing elsewhere in this work, and to the same we would refer the reader. Our subject remained at the parental home until the death of his father, after which he associated himself with John Meyer in the purchase of the homestead farm, comprising eighty acres, and being described as the east one-half of the northwest quarter of section 13, Lanier township, Preble county. The gentlemen thereafter were associated in farming operations for three years, when Mr. Glander married and thereupon disposed of his interest in the property to his partner. In 1870 he effected the purchase of his present fine farm of one hundred and twenty-eight acres, locating upon the property within the following year and having ever since continued to reside here, the farm being located on section 14, Lanier township. Here Mr. Glander successfully carries on diversified farming, raising wheat, corn and tobacco, and for three years he also operated a threshing machine, beginning in 1878.

On the 20th of November, 1870, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Glander and Miss Martha J. Ryder, a daughter of T. F. Ryder, to whom specific reference is made on another page of this volume, and of this union eleven children have been born, namely: Annie, David, John, Effie, Wilbert, Catherine, Joseph, Verna, Celia, Orpha and Naomi.

In his political proclivities our subject

renders a staunch allegiance to the Republican party and its principles. He served several terms as a member of the school board, and has ever manifested a lively interest in the cause of popular education. Mrs. Glander is a devoted member of the Reformed church, and the family are held in high esteem in the community, contributing their quota to all that tends to conserve the progress and prosperity of the locality.

OLIVER C. GATES.

This worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Preble county is now successfully engaged in general farming on section 27, Monroe township. He was born in that township, June 7, 1844, a son of George Gates, a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, who came to this county when about fifteen years of age with his father, Henry Gates, also a native of the Keystone state. On reaching manhood George Gates married Louisa Fowler, a native of Preble county and a daughter of Joseph Fowler, one of the pioneers of this locality. By this marriage were born nine children, all of whom reached years of maturity and are still living.

In this family Oliver C. Gates is the third child and eldest son. His boyhood and youth were passed in his native township, attending the district schools and assisting in the work of the home farm until he attained his majority. He then went to Indiana, where he worked at anything which he could find to do, and on his return to Ohio located in Lewisburg, where he learned the shoe business, which he followed for many years, carrying on business for himself a part of the time. He spent some time in Gettysburg, and in 1881 returned to Mon-

roe township and purchased his present farm of ninety-five acres, to the improvement and cultivation of which he has since devoted his time and attention with marked success.

In 1871, in Monroe township, Mr. Gates married Miss Becky J. Bantz, also a native of Preble county, who died leaving two children—Laura J. and James E. For his second wife he married Miss Sarah A. Wilkinson, of Washington township, this county, who died leaving no children. His present wife was in her maidenhood Miss Amanda C. House, a native of this county. The only child born to this union died in infancy.

In his political views Mr. Gates is a Republican, and takes an active interest in public affairs. He is now most capably serving as road commissioner, which office he has filled for many years, and in that capacity has helped build many of the roads in the county. He is progressive and public spirited and never withholds his support from any enterprise which he believes will prove of public benefit, or will in any way advance the interests of the community.

MOSES CONGER.

Of one of the pioneer families of Preble county, long identified with the farming interests of his community, is Moses Conger a member. He was born in Kentucky, on the 12th of August, 1807, his parents being Josiah and Catherine (Runyan) Conger. He represents one of the old families of the south. His father was born in North Carolina and in early manhood removed to Kentucky. He was of a studious nature and when quite young determined to enter the ministry. To this end he bent all his en-

ergies toward the acquisition of a thorough education and became particularly well informed. His school and college privileges were limited, but through his own efforts he acquired a broad fund of knowledge. While still a young man he was married to Miss Catherine Runyan, who was then only fifteen years of age. Her parents opposed the marriage and so the young couple quietly left home, taking upon themselves the nuptial vows without the parental consent. The young lady mounted her horse behind her future husband and they started out in search of a clergyman. It was after his marriage that Mr. Conger was ordained a minister of the Christian church, and up to the time of his death he occupied a pulpit in that denomination. About 1812 he removed with his family to Ohio, locating a claim of one hundred and sixty acres in Dixon township, Preble county, now the home of S. A. Brower. There in the midst of the forest he built a log cabin and prepared a home for his family. He was a splendid type of the noble frontiersman, who braves the dangers and trials that fall to the lot of the pioneer in order to prepare an abiding place for his family. His trusty rifle furnished many a deer, turkey or other game for his hospitable board. He was a great hunter, noted for his marksmanship throughout the community, and his death was caused by the accidental discharge of his gun, when he was scarcely past middle life. He was a man beloved by all who knew him for he possessed those manly qualities which ever augment friendships and command respect and admiration. In his family were eleven children, but only four are now living, namely: Moses; Eli, who is living retired in Eaton; William, who is living retired in Missouri; and Evaline, who

is the widow of Jacob Marshall and resides with a daughter in Delaware.

Moses Conger was familiar with the history of pioneer life in Preble county. All was wild and unimproved during the period of his boyhood, but the sturdy frontiersmen with their courageous wives were making homes in the wilderness and laying the foundation for the future prosperity and progress of the county. His educational privileges were limited to those afforded by the primitive pioneer schools of the time, but his training at farm labor was not meager. Ere he had reached his twenty-first year he was married to Miss Phoebe Price, a native of Hamilton, Ohio, and a daughter of David and Betsey Price. The father was a carpenter by trade and in an early day came from New Jersey to Ohio. Subsequently he purchased a farm in Gasper township, Preble county, and there devoted his attention to agricultural pursuits. Mr. Conger and his bride began their domestic life in an old log school house on a portion of his father's farm and he engaged in the cultivation of a part of the home place for about twelve years, after which he and his brother, Ross, now deceased, purchased eighty acres adjoining the old home. Not long afterward they bought an additional forty-acre tract, and some years afterward Moses Conger purchased his brother's interest in the land and assumed full control of the farm, which is now occupied by his son, Clayton. About 1870 he built his present handsome residence. He has been very successful in his business enterprises and now owns three hundred and seventeen acres of valuable land, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation and yields to him a handsome income.

In 1880 Mr. Conger was called upon to

mourn the loss of his wife, and in 1883 he married Mrs. Miranda Gardner, a widow of H. N. Gardner and the daughter of Meeker S. and Ann S. (Wicoff) Morton. Her father was one of the well-known carpenters and contractors of Preble county. By his former marriage Mr. Conger had nine children, of whom three are living: John, a retired manufacturer of Goldfield, Iowa; Clayton, who is operating the home farm; and Elizabeth, who resides in Dixon township and is the widow of Lemuel Bennett.

In his political views Mr. Conger is a stalwart Republican and served for one term as assessor. He also filled other township offices, ever discharging his duty in a prompt and capable manner. For many years he has been a consistent member of the Christian church. He is now ninety-three years of age and is one of the oldest citizens of the county and until about two years ago he enjoyed very vigorous health. His has been a long, active and useful career, characterized by fidelity to duty, by adherence to upright principles and by all that is noble and best. He has watched the entire growth and development of Preble county, has seen its wild lands transformed into beautiful farms, while towns and villages have sprung up and all the conveniences and industries of the older east have been introduced, and he certainly deserves mention in this volume, which would be incomplete without the record of his life.

WILLIAM LEAS.

This well known business man of West Sonora, Preble county, is a native of this county, born in Harrison township, October 22, 1834, and is a son of Jacob and Bar-

bara (Sheller) Leas, representatives of honored pioneer families of this county. His father was born here and was engaged in general merchandising in Euphemia for several years. The grandfather, William Leas, was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, of German ancestry, and was one of the first settlers of Preble county. Jacob Leas was twice married, his first wife, Barbara Sheller, having died when our subject was only five years old. He was the older of their two children. His sister, Elizabeth A., now deceased, married, first, Mark Crume, a son of Dr. Crume, of Eaton. Her second husband was Dr. Surface.

The early life of our subject was spent upon a farm in Harrison township, Preble county, and in Darke county, Ohio. At the age of sixteen years he attended school in Euphemia, and was later a student at Wittenberg College for six months, after which he taught two winter terms of school. He spent one year as a clerk in a store in Marion, Indiana, and then returned to Ohio, being similarly employed at West Sonora for two years. Forming a partnership with John D. Niswonger, he was engaged in business for seven years as a general merchant and grain dealer at the same place, at the end of which time the partnership was dissolved. Mr. Leas served as a railroad agent from 1860 to 1890, was also postmaster, notary public, and treasurer of his township for about nine years. In connection with his other interests he conducted a lumberyard. Closing out his general store in 1870, he embarked in the drug business, which he carried on until 1890. The following seven years he lived retired, but in 1897 he again turned his attention to the drug business, and is also engaged in job printing.

Mr. Leas has been twice married, his

first wife being Mary Werts, a sister of John Werts, a merchant of Baltimore, Ohio, and a daughter of John Werts, Sr. By this union were born three children: R. Waldo, a traveling man of Miami City, Ohio; Lizzie, the wife of Charles W. Recher, a farmer of Harrison township, Preble county; and Alma K., the wife of D. O. French, the cashier of the C. Quick & Company's banking house, at Frankton, Madison county, Indiana. On the 6th of July, 1873, Mr. Leas married Martha E. Rodgers, by whom he had two children: Charles R., a teacher and law student; and Ernest E., who is employed in the National Cash Register Works in Dayton. Mrs. Leas was born in Virginia and came to Preble county, Ohio, when about five years old.

Like his father, Mr. Leas is a staunch supporter of the Republican party. He has served as the secretary and treasurer of the Sonora & Ithaca Turnpike Company during the existence of the company, and as a public-spirited and progressive citizen he takes a deep interest in every enterprise calculated to prove of public benefit. At the age of fifteen years he united with the Methodist Episcopal church of Lewisburg, and has taken an active part in church and Sunday school work, having served as the superintendent of the Sunday school, and in other official positions. His wife is a member of the same church.

JOHN BROWN.

John Brown, whose home is on section 12, Monroe township, was for many years one of the active and enterprising farmers of Preble county, as well as one of its most reliable and honored citizens, and now in his declining years he is enjoying a well earned

rest, free from the cares and responsibilities of business life. Throughout the county he is widely and favorably known, his entire life having been passed here.

Mr. Brown was born in Monroe township, October 21, 1821, and is a worthy representative of one of the honored pioneer families of the state. His father, George Brown, was a native of Randolph county, North Carolina, and a son of Michael Brown, who was probably born in the same state, of German ancestry, and came to Ohio about 1808, locating first in Montgomery county, but later removing to Preble county. His last days were spent in Monroe township, where he died at the advanced age of eighty-nine years. The father of our subject was only nine years old when he came with his parents to this state, and when a young man the family removed to Preble county. In Monroe township he married Sarah Nethercutt, who was born in West Virginia in 1795, and died at the age of fifty-two years. Her father, William Nethercutt, was born in Virginia, of English parentage, and came to Preble county, Ohio, about 1816. He was a soldier of the Revolutionary war. After his marriage the father of our subject located on section 12, Monroe township, where in the midst of the forest he improved a farm, making it his home until he died, at the age of sixty-two years.

George and Sarah (Nethercutt) Brown were the parents of twelve children, five sons and seven daughters, all born in Monroe township, and all reached manhood or womanhood, namely: Mary, now deceased; John, our subject; Elizabeth, deceased; Frederick, a resident of Kansas; Sarah, the wife of Eli Lock, of Kokomo, Indiana; Matilda, deceased; George W., a resident of

Noble county, Indiana; Docia, the wife of Jesse Ott, of Noble county, Indiana; Alpha, the wife of Thomas Gaff, of Whitley county, Indiana; William, a resident of West Manchester, this county; Harriet, the widow of Garrett Brumbaugh, of Union City, Indiana; and Daniel, of Pittsburg, Kansas.

During the boyhood of our subject the greater part of this county was still in its primitive condition; wild animals roamed through the forests and useful game of all kinds was plentiful. He attended school in the common log school house with its greased-paper window, slab seats and rude desks made by laying a board across pins driven into the wall. This primitive structure was a mile and a quarter from his home. He aided his father in the arduous task of clearing and cultivating a new farm, beginning work at the age of eight years and continuing to assist in the labors of the home farm until twenty-four.

On the 3d of February, 1847, Mr. Brown married Miss Sarah Banta, who was born in Warren county, Ohio, and when a young girl came to this county with her parents, Henry and Mabel (Gustin) Banta, also natives of Warren county. By this union were born five children: George, deceased; Henry, a farmer of Monroe township, killed on his farm by lightning June 29, 1900; Mary Adena, the wife of Charles Barmes, postmaster of West Manchester; William Gustin, a physician of Lewisburg, Preble county; and Elmer, who died young. The mother of these children died in 1857.

Mr. Brown was again married, August 4, 1859, his second union being with Miss Sarah Byrum, who was born near Trenton, Butler county, Ohio, February 17, 1832, and at the age of seventeen commenced teaching school, a profession which she suc-

cessfully followed for ten years, or until her marriage. Her father, Silas Byrum, was a native of Darke county, Ohio, and a wagonmaker by occupation. In Butler county he married Mary Clark, a native of that county, and they became the parents of eight daughters, of whom Mrs. Brown is the eldest. She was only two years old when her father removed to Darke county, locating nine miles west of Greenville, where she was reared. Her great-grandmother, Phebe Ross, made the first American flag. Several of her ancestors were soldiers of the Revolution, and her grandfather Clark was taken prisoner by the British during that struggle. One of her great-uncles was a member of Washington's life guard. By his second marriage Mr. Brown had six children, namely: Lucina, at home; Silas E., a farmer of Monroe township; Harriet E., the wife of A. J. Smith, a farmer of the same township; John A., deceased; Gilbert T., a physician of Philisburg, Montgomery county, Ohio; and Alpha R., the wife of Frank Hodge, of Germantown, Montgomery county.

In early life Mr. Brown learned the cabinetmaker's trade and for three months after his first marriage he followed that occupation in Castine, Darke county, but at the end of that time he removed to Monroe township, Preble county, and located on the Henry Banta farm on section 13. For about two years he taught school during the winter months, while through the summer season he worked at his trade. His first purchase of land consisted of forty acres in the northwest corner of section 12, Monroe township, on which was a little cabin, where the family lived for a time, while he devoted his energies to the further improvement and cultivation of his little

farm. After residing there for five years he removed to his present farm on the same section, where he has one hundred and fifty-eight acres of land, upon which he has made all of the improvements. He has cleared over one hundred acres of land in Monroe township, and in other ways has materially aided in the advancement of the county. He now resides on his farm, and is living retired from active business cares, enjoying a well earned rest.

Mr. Brown cast his first presidential vote for Martin Van Buren, and has always been a stalwart supporter of the Democratic party. For the long period of twenty-five years he efficiently served as a township trustee; was township treasurer one term; and was several times the candidate of his party for county commissioner, but as Preble county has a large Republican majority he failed of election. He is held in high regard by all who know him, and is deserving of honorable mention among the pioneers and representative citizens of his native county.

WILLIAM A. FOOS.

Among those agriculturists of Preble county whose places manifest to the most casual observer the energy and ability of their owner in his chosen calling, is the subject of this personal history. He owns and operates the old homestead farm on section 22, Monroe township, where he was born December 10, 1857, a son of John and Susan (Crisler) Foos. The father was one of the earliest settlers of the county, being the first to locate on the Greenville pike. Later he removed to the farm now owned and occupied by our subject. When he located thereon it was a wild tract but he immediate-

ly turned his attention to its improvement, clearing away the timber and placing acre after acre under the plow. He was a Democrat in politics and held some local offices. He died at the age of fifty-six years, and his wife, who was a native of Preble county, departed this life at the age of sixty-two. To this worthy couple were born the following children: Elizabeth J., wife of Daniel G. Petrie, of Madison, Darke county, Ohio; Martin and Sarah Bell, both deceased; Mary, wife of Joseph Campbell, of Eaton, Ohio; William A., our subject, and Anna Cora, wife of A. L. Mendenhall, a lawyer of Dayton, Ohio.

During his boyhood William A. Foos pursued his studies in the local schools, and remained with his parents, aiding in the operation of the home farm, until they were called to their final rest. He now owns the old homestead, comprising one hundred and thirty acres of well improved and productive land, and is successfully engaged in general farming. He is also a stockholder in the creamery at West Manchester.

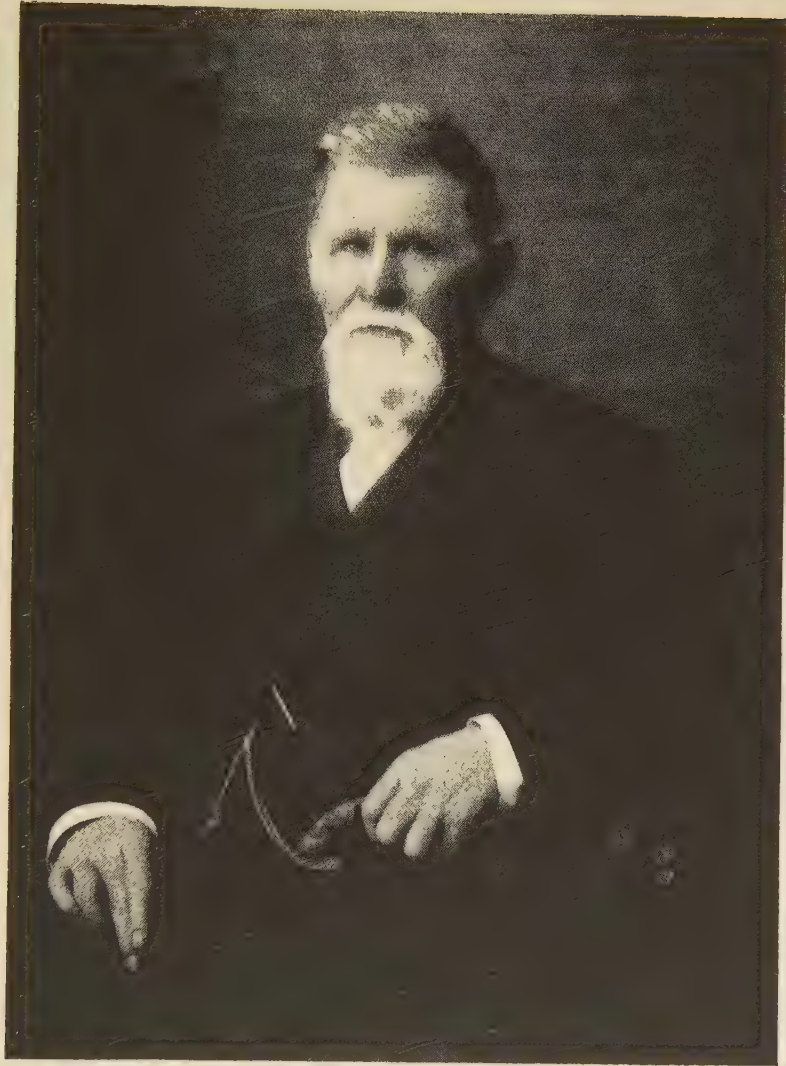
On the 1st of March, 1883, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Foos and Miss Rilda Banta, a native of this county, and a daughter of Benjamin and Cass (Yowell) Banta. The mother is a native of Virginia, but the father was born in Monroe township, Preble county, where he still continues to reside. In their family were seven children, three sons and four daughters, namely: Manta, wife of C. D. Parks, of Monroe township; Alice, wife of Nelson Brown, of the same township; Marcus L., a resident of Darke county; Eva, wife of John Brown, of Harrison township, this county; Rilda, wife of our subject; and William H. and Mabel, who reside at home with their parents on section 12, Monroe township. In that town-

ship Mrs. Foos was reared, her education being obtained in its public schools. Our subject and his wife have two sons: Leroy B. and Edgar L., who are attending the local schools.

The Democratic party finds in Mr. Foos a staunch supporter of its principles, and although his township is Republican he has three times been elected trustee, a fact which plainly indicates his personal popularity and the confidence and trust reposed in him by his fellow citizens. He served altogether nine years. He is a member of the Evangelical Association, of which he is a trustee and also assistant superintendent of the Sunday school. He served as superintendent four years and has also been a teacher in the school for some time. In educational affairs he takes an active interest and is now efficiently serving as school director. Socially he belongs to West Manchester Lodge, No. 520, I. O. O. F., in which he has filled all the chairs.

WILLIAM C. RANDALL.

Among the honored pioneers and representative citizens of Preble county none are more highly respected than William C. Randall, who is now living a retired life in Eldorado. He is a native of this county, born in Gratis township, August 1, 1816, and belongs to one of its oldest and best families, being a son of Jehu and Elizabeth (Conarroe) Randall. His father was born in South Carolina, July 27, 1790, and was only fifteen years of age when, in 1805, he came with his parents to Preble county, Ohio, where his father, Jonas Randall, secured one thousand acres of government land. The latter located in Gratis township, where he



W. C. Randall

Quaker in religious belief and came north on account of the institution of slavery. Our subject's mother was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1795, but her childhood was mainly passed in New Jersey, and in 1807 came to Ohio with her parents, who located in Butler county, near the Preble county line. She lived to the advanced age of ninety-five years, and spent seventy-seven years upon one farm in Preble county. Her father, John Conarro, was a native of New Jersey, and one of the pioneers of this state. Our subject is the second in order of birth in a family of eight children, the others being Thomas, Eliza Ann and Levi, all deceased; Mary Ann, a resident of Richmond, Indiana; Verlinda, deceased; Andrew C., a resident of Illinois; and Maggie, of western Kansas.

During his boyhood, William C. Randall pursued his studies in the old-time subscription schools, the schoolhouse being built of logs with a stick chimney and clapboard roof. He began his education at the age of four years and still remembers his first teacher, William Gladen, who boarded in the Randall family. He has continued his education through life, keeping posted in religious as well as secular affairs, by constant reading of books and daily papers. He remained at home until he was married, at the age of eighteen and a half years, to Mary Green, a daughter of Henry Green, one of the first store-keepers in Butler county. After his marriage Mr. Randall located upon a farm in Gratis township, where he resided until 1836, when he removed to Jefferson township, where he resided for seven years, and then became a resident of Monroe township. In 1836, when he removed to Jefferson township, he located in the midst of

the wilderness and at once began clearing and improving a farm. His years of business activity were spent in farming and stock-raising. He has owned a vast amount of land in his time, and has cleared and had cleared several hundred acres, and is therefore familiar with the arduous labor required to transform a heavily timbered tract of land into a highly cultivated and productive farm. He still owns valuable farm lands. As a farmer he was most successful, and in connection with agricultural pursuits he extensively engaged in the live stock business for twenty-five years or more, raising, buying, selling and feeding stock. He always took great delight in horse and cattle, and his were among the best stock of the county.

Mr. Randall's first wife died in August, 1842, leaving but one child, an infant daughter that soon followed her mother in death.

For his second wife he married Ann Mills, a widow, who died seventeen years later, leaving a daughter, Rebecca Ann, now a resident of Cincinnati. His third wife was Sarah Jacqua, also a widow, who died three years after their marriage, leaving one daughter, Luella, a resident of Richmond, Indiana. On the 10th of December, 1867, he married Malinda Bonebrake, by whom he has one daughter, Flora, now the wife of Dr. Davidson, of Dayton, Ohio. He has also six grandchildren and one great-grandchild.

In 1880 Mr. Randall removed to Eldorado and has since lived a retired life. When Mr. Randall became a resident of Eldorado no street or sidewalk improvements had been made. He served either as councilman or mayor of Eldorado for several years, during which time he was instrumental in secur-

ing many improvements in the streets and sidewalks of the village. He cast his first lived to the age of eighty years. He was a presidential vote for Martin Van Buren in 1836, and since the organization of the Republican party has been one of its staunch supporters. He has served as a delegate to many county and state conventions of his party, and also as a member of the Republican central committee of the county.

For sixteen years Mr. Randall served as a member of the agricultural board of Preble county, and in early life was a member of the state militia, Governor Joseph Vance commissioning him ensign of the Ninth Company, Second Regiment, Third Brigade, Nineteenth Division of Ohio State Militia, on the 25th of September, 1837; afterward he was made second lieutenant, and September 14, 1840, was transferred to the First Company of Artillery, Second Brigade, Nineteenth Division, Ohio State Militia, and was made the second lieutenant of the company to which he was transferred.

Mr. Randall has been a man of great physical endurance. His health, strength and activity at the present time is remarkable. His eyesight is somewhat impaired, but with that exception he is still well preserved. He is widely and favorably known throughout the county, and as one of its prominent and highly esteemed citizens is certainly deserving of honorable mention in the biographical history of his native county, where his long, useful and exemplary life has been spent. Since 1844 he has been an active and faithful member of the United Brethren church, and has filled almost every church office, including those of trustee, class-leader, steward and delegate to the conferences. He also served as superintendent of the Sabbath school twenty-six years.

WILLIAM F. ALBRIGHT.

William F. Albright, prominent among the native life-long citizens of Preble county, was born at Eaton, March 20, 1823. He was the eldest son of Jonas and Margaret Albright. His ancestry was of pure Teutonic blood, migrating to this country from the fatherland, in the early history of the United States. The father of the subject of this sketch was born in North Carolina, June 9, 1802, migrating with the family to Ohio previous to the war of 1812, and settling in Harrison township, where he resided until manhood, when he was married to Miss Margaret Meyers, in 1821, and soon thereafter removed to Eaton, where their son William was born and lived all his life.

He went to the common schools of the county during the winter months, receiving a fair elementary education for those times and working at home with his father during the rest of the year. When he had attained the age of sixteen years he entered the office of the Register, in his native town, to learn the printing trade with Mr. Tizzard, the proprietor of the paper at that time. He was honest, faithful and industrious as an apprentice, and when he had finished learning the trade he continued in the office as a journeyman compositor, then became a partner, later sole proprietor and editor, altogether being connected with the journal from "devil" to "boss," a period of about sixty years. In early manhood Mr. Albright, being of Methodist-timber born, attached himself to that church and continued an earnest worker and devoted Christian to the end of his life. He was a bright example of practical Christianity, leading a life squared by the golden rule and showing his faith in his works. There was no ostentatious or noisy

devotion in his walk; his deeds, not his words, bore testimony to his faith.

In 1844 he was united in marriage to Elizabeth Riner, with whom he lived happily for ten years, when his companion passed away, leaving him with four children, one son and three daughters. He remained a widower for about three years, when he married as a second wife, Mrs. Virginia Stroud, daughter of Rev. Asa B. and Mary Stroud. To this union were given three children, two sons and a daughter. In 1862 his second wife fell asleep and he was again left a widower and remained so until the end of his earthly life. In the closing years of his life, Mr. Albright had several attacks of la grippe which undermined and permanently impaired his health so that his last days were days of much suffering and helplessness. The end came June 18, 1898, at the age of seventy-five years, two months and twenty-eight days. He fell peacefully asleep, surrounded by his family and friends, missed and mourned by many.

During his latter years the business of the deceased was carried on in the firm name of W. F. Albright & Sons, and since that event has been continued without any change by his two sons, Edmond J. and Charles E. Albright. The well earned reputation of the Register, which the father loved and honored more than half a century, is being fully sustained by his estimable sons. They have proved themselves well deserving of the name and fame transmitted to them. By their industry, integrity and fair dealing with the patrons and friends of their sainted father they richly merit the friendship and patronage of the public, whom their predecessor served faithfully and well for so many years. The manner in which the younger Albrights conduct the paper should

assure them success in business and gain them many friends.

During all his life, Mr. Albright was faithful to all his duties as a citizen and church member, and was alive to all public improvements calculated to advance the interests of the people, and did what he could to promote the welfare of the community. As a man he had a large heart with an open door and a free hand, ever ready to sympathize with and help, when he could, those in need. In every relation in life he was one of nature's nobility, without ostentation, not displaying his benevolence on a cheap bargain counter or in dress parade, but quietly going about doing good, hardly allowing his left hand to know what his right hand did. By his life he leavened those around him and created in his sphere of influence an atmosphere of kindness, making the world better by force of his example. The many testimonials to his worth, with which the neighboring press teemed at the time he passed away were but a reflex of what was felt throughout the circle of his acquaintances and is a monument of which any one might well feel proud. His vacant place is hard to fill, but his memory remains as a benediction to his surviving family and friends. The good that men do lives on when their withered clay moulders in the narrow house and the spirit has flown to its eternal home. Take him as an all-around man, William F. Albright had few peers and no superiors—his goodness made his greatness.

SYLVANUS A. BROWER.

Sylvanus A. Brower, who is devoting his attention to a dual pursuit, being both a farmer and a commercial man, was born

in Jackson township, Preble county, Ohio, on the 10th of March, 1850, and is a son of Jacob L. and Susan (Surface) Brower. The father was born January 2, 1821, his parents being Abraham and Sarah (Long) Brower, who belonged to an old Pennsylvania-Dutch family and came to Preble county at a very early period in its development, locating in Jackson township. The grandfather died March 20, 1875, in the eightieth year of his age. He had inherited a farm from his father, James Long—the property now owned by Isaac Tyler. There he lived and died, and at his death the farm became the property of Jacob Brower, and from him passed to our subject, who sold it to Mr. Tyler.

Jacob Brower, the father of our subject, has spent the last four years in New Paris. He lived upon the old homestead between the years 1868 and 1878, but at the latter date sold the property to his son and purchased a farm of one hundred and ten acres directly west of the old place. In his early life he learned the blacksmith's trade and for twenty years he followed that pursuit in Upshur and Orangeburg, Ohio, also in Connersville, Indiana. It was in that place that he learned his trade from Henry Wetherel. While thus engaged his employer allowed him to have a spirited horse in order to ride home to see his people. When they reached the bridge across White river the horse became unruly and backed off into the water. The animal was killed and Mr. Brower was crippled for life. He was, however, a man of great energy and strong determination, prosecuting his business interests so carefully and diligently that his efforts were attended with success. In this way he accumulated a handsome competence that now enables him to live retired

at his home in New Paris. His life has been very honorable and upright. He has long been strongly opposed to the use of tobacco and liquor and for twenty years never passed inside the doors of a saloon. While not a church member, he has ever been a supporter of church and charitable work, and his word has ever been as good as any bond solemnized by signature or seal. He was a strong anti-slavery man prior to the war, and after the inauguration of hostilities between the north and the south he offered his services to the government, but being a cripple he was not allowed to enlist. In early life he was an enthusiastic supporter of the Whig party, but upon the organization of the Republican party he joined its ranks and has since been one of its earnest advocates.

Mr. Brower married Miss Susan Surface, who was born in Jackson township, about the year 1824, and died September 13, 1877. She was a daughter of Henry Surface, a native of Pennsylvania, who married Miss Long, a native of Germany. On coming to Preble county he located in Jackson township on the farm now owned by Samuel Griffis. There he reared a large family. He was killed by damp in a well on the Benner farm, after which the grandmother reared the family. Henry, the oldest son, assumed the management of the place and affairs were carefully conducted. By the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Brower six children have been born, of whom four are living, namely: Sylvanus A., the subject of this review; Emma C.; Amanda E.; and Horace G., a farmer of Jackson township. The two daughters are at home, keeping house for their father.

Mr. Brower, whose name introduces this review, was reared upon the home farm, and in the common schools acquired his pre-

liminary education which was supplemented by a course in the high school of New Paris. At the age of twenty he began teaching in the Cedar Springs school and after following that profession for some time he entered the State University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor. He worked at various times in order to meet the expense of his college course, but spent three years in the university and afterward entered Oxford University. He was also a student for one year at the United Brethren College at Westerville. During his college days he became a member of the Phi Delta Theta fraternity. His liberal education well fitted him for life's practical duties.

On the 28th of March, 1875, Mr. Brower was united in marriage to Miss Emma Markey, a daughter of Christian Markey. He then located on his father's farm in Jackson township and there resided for one year, after which he engaged in teaching in the Cedar Springs school. The next year he lived upon his father-in-law's farm, and the following year purchased his grandfather's homestead of one hundred and thirty acres. He also taught school for one year after buying that property, but subsequently turned his attention more exclusively to farming, giving his time entirely to the operation of his land until 1883, when he sold that farm and purchased one hundred and seventy-four acres in Dixon township, upon which he now resides. Later he bought twenty-six acres adjoining and afterward purchased another farm, of one hundred and sixty acres, next to the home place. In 1883 the nomination for county commissioner on the Republican ticket was tendered to him. He did not seek the nomination, but when it was offered to him he accepted it. Together with the other nominees on the ticket,

however, he was defeated. In 1894 he became associated with the Bradley Fertilizer Company, of Boston, which is one of the largest concerns of the country. He has represented this house in Preble and adjoining counties for three years and also travels over one-third of Indiana, being upon the road the greater part of his time. He sells the fertilizers in car-loads to dealers, and does an extensive business in his line, being one of the leading representatives upon the road: in fact he is one of the most trusted employes of the house, enjoying the unqualified confidence of his employers and the high regard of his many patrons.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Brower have been born the following children: Vesta A., who is the wife of Harry McCulloch and resides on one of her father's places; Frank M., who manages the home farm; Ada J.; Stella A.; and Stanley J. In 1894 Mr. Brower erected his present handsome residence, which is celebrated for its generous hospitality, the members of the family occupying an enviable position in social circles. He and his wife enjoy the high regard of many warm friends and are widely known for their sterling qualities. Mr. Brower sustains an enviable reputation in business circles by reason of his straightforward methods, his genial manner and his unfailing courtesy, qualities which make him very popular.

JOSIAH RINEHART.

In Gratis township, Preble county, on the 16th of February, 1864, Josiah Rinehart was born, being one of the twelve children of Enoch and Elizabeth (Young) Rinehart. His father was a native of Lanier township, Preble county, born in 1824, being a son of

Jacob and Susannah Rinehart, both of whom were natives of Virginia and who came to Preble county at an early day, locating in the southwest corner of Lanier township, where they passed the residue of their lives. When a young man the grandfather became a deacon in the German Baptist church and was always an active and consistent Christian gentleman, highly respected for his genuine worth. He lived to an advanced age and acquired considerable property, being the owner of two hundred and ten acres of valuable land in Preble county. His wife survived him for some years, also passing away at a ripe old age.

Under the parental roof Enoch Rinehart was reared and to the common school system of the neighborhood he was indebted for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. After his marriage he purchased one hundred acres of the old home farm and devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits throughout his active business career. He was long a deacon in the Conservative German Baptist church, holding the office for about nineteen years. A man of unflinching integrity, his word was as good as his bond and he was ever found reliable and trustworthy in all life's relations. He possessed a very genial and jovial disposition and was hospitable almost to a fault, the latch-string always hanging out to those who called at the Rinehart homestead. His many sterling qualities made him popular and he enjoyed the high regard and friendship of all with whom he came in contact. His death occurred in May, 1899, and he was sincerely mourned throughout the community. His wife was a daughter of Adam and Catherine (Brubaker) Young and was born in Preble county, Ohio, about 1831. Her father was a native of Virginia, and when a child of

seven years was brought to Ohio. He was a son of Henry Young, who entered a claim of one hundred and sixty acres of land in Gratis township, near Winchester, there developing a farm upon which he spent his remaining days. It was upon that place that the father of Mrs. Rinehart was reared. After his marriage he lived upon a rented farming adjoining the old homestead for a year, and then purchased eighty acres of land north of Eaton, in Washington township. After two years he sold that property and bought eighty acres in Gasper township, which he successfully cultivated until his death. His financial resources were annually augmented and as his capital increased he added to the farm until it comprised two hundred and sixty-five acres. He prospered in all his undertakings and won an enviable reputation for his reliable business methods. From early manhood he was a consistent member of the German Baptist church, and was a man of social, genial disposition, his home being celebrated for its hospitality, his life for its charitable and benevolent spirit. His wife was born in Maryland and was a daughter of John Brubaker. She was brought to Ohio by her parents when a little maiden of seven years. While en route they spent two days at Cincinnati, although the place at that time contained but one log cabin. Her father hesitated to take up land in that locality and made his way to Gratis township, just west of Winchester. There her mother soon afterward died, and the father subsequently married Miss Mary France. There were eight children by the first union, of whom one is still living, Henry, who resides on the old homestead in Gratis township. Of the seven children of the second marriage two are yet living: Joseph, of Twin township, and George, who

follows farming in Howard county, Indiana. In the family of Adam and Catherine Young there were eight children, of whom four are living: Henry H., a prominent agriculturist of Dixon township; Eli, a retired farmer of Lanier township; Elkanah, a retired farmer of Gasper township, and Sallie, the wife of Isaac Jones, of Redmond, Illinois. Mrs. Rinehart was in her forty-eighth year at the time of her death. The father of our subject afterward married Mrs. Rebecca Hickson Barwick. By the first marriage there were twelve children, eight of whom are living: Jacob, who follows farming in Gratis township; Susannah, the wife of Peter Kitterman, a farmer of Gratis township; Eli, who owns and operates land in Darke county; Elzina, the wife of Stephen Petry, a farmer of Dakota; Josiah; Edwin, a resident farmer of Gratis township; Frances E., wife of Samuel Royer, a farmer of Darke county, and Abraham E., who is farming in Gratis township.

Josiah Rinehart spent his youth amid good influences in his parents' home, and in the common schools acquired his elementary knowledge of the English branches of learning. On reaching his twentieth year he left the parental roof and entered upon an independent business career as a farm hand, being thus employed until the time of his marriage. In the spring of 1891 he removed to Connersville, Indiana, with his father-in-law, with whom he was associated in farming interests for a year, but in the spring of 1892 he settled upon his present farm of one hundred and sixty acres on section 29, Dixon township, where he has since made his home. In connection with the cultivation of the fields he has engaged quite extensively in the raising of cattle, making a specialty of the breeding of fancy stock. He

finds both branches of the business profitable sources of income.

Mr. Rinehart was united in marriage to Miss Almeeta O. Toney, a daughter of Carey Toney, and their home is blessed with the presence of three children: Emma May, Franklin C. and John E. The parents hold membership in the Conservative German Baptist church, and in his political views Mr. Rinehart is a Republican; but the honors and emoluments of public office have had no attraction for him, as he prefers to devote his energies and time to his business interests, in which he is meeting with creditable success. His prosperity is the result of his own well directed efforts, for by determined purpose, unflagging industry and keen discrimination in business he has worked his way upward to the plain of affluence.

HENRY C. BLACKFORD.

Henry C. Blackford, the well known proprietor of a livery and sale stable in Eaton, through many years has been identified with the business interests of this city, so that his public career is well known to his fellow townsmen. That he enjoys their high regard is an evidence that his business affairs have been honorably conducted and that in all life's relations he has been worthy of the trust reposed in him.

Mr. Blackford was born in Dixon township, Preble county, Ohio, on the 7th of June, 1854, and is of Scotch lineage, the ancestors of the family having crossed the Atlantic from Scotland to New York, whence representatives of the name afterward came to Ohio. Ephraim Blackford, the father of our subject, was born in Butler county, Ohio, and in early life engaged in merchandising at Stony Point, Dixon town-

ship. After his store and stock were destroyed by fire he engaged in farming in Preble county and subsequently became a produce shipper in Sugar Valley. He was very prominent in public affairs and was recognized as a leader of public thought and movement. The strength of his character was shown at the time when he suffered heavy loss by fire: he was left with nothing, but with hopeful spirit he set to work to retrieve his lost possessions and became a substantial citizen of his community. His death occurred in 1892. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Enos, was a representative of one of the pioneer families of Butler county, Ohio, and died in 1891. She had eleven children, of whom four are living, namely: William, a resident of West Manchester, Ohio; Sarah, the wife of George Woods, who is living in Camden, Ohio; Henry C., of this review, and Laura, the wife of Thomas Hamylin, of Butler county, Ohio.

Mr. Blackford, of this review, attended the county schools and therein mastered the elementary English branches which fitted him for life's practical duties. At the early age of thirteen, however, he started out in life on his own account as a farm hand and was employed in that capacity until twenty-two years of age. He was then married and rented land in Gasper township, Preble county, near Camden, and for seven years devoted his time and attention to agricultural pursuits. On the expiration of that period he entered the employ of a produce and commission house of Cincinnati. He spent four years in this employment, after which he embarked in business for himself in Eaton, being connected with the produce trade in this city until 1892. In 1894 he purchased a livery barn and has since been its owner.

He has many horses and a fine line of stylish turnouts, and enjoys a liberal patronage which is accorded him by reason of his accommodating manner, his earnest desire to please his patrons and his honorable dealings.

On the 20th of January, 1876, Mr. Blackford led to the marriage altar Miss Mary Wright, a daughter of Samuel Wright, of Camden, one of the early settlers of the county. She was a woman who possessed many excellencies of character, and her death, which occurred in August, 1889, occasioned deep grief among her many friends as well as in her immediate family. She left two children: Dora, who is now the wife of Dr. L. R. Pryor, of Eaton, and Samuel, who is living in Eaton. Mr. Blackford is independent in his political and religious views, yet gives quite freely to the support of the church. He belongs to the Knights of Pythias fraternity and to the Independent Order of Foresters. Realizing the value of education, he gave his children the best advantages in that direction. A self-made man, he has advanced entirely by hard work, and close application to business, and his prosperity is certainly creditable and well deserved.

HENRY S. GLANDER.

One of the leading and influential farmers of Lanier township, Preble county, Henry S. Glander is noted among the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished to the Buckeye state. He is a native of the dukedom of Brunswick and was born at Bremen on the 2d of February, 1838. The first thirteen years of his life he spent in the fatherland and his education was acquired in the schools of that country and in America. Early in life he was taught the value

of industry and during the summer of his fourteenth year he began to earn his own livelihood by picking wool in the woolen mill owned by Martin Fouts. The following summer he worked in his uncle's distillery, and during the years 1854-5 he was employed as a farm hand by George Wagoner. When his father removed to a farm in 1856, Mr. Glander went with his parents to the new home and there assisted in the labors of field and meadow for five years, after which he found employment as a teamster for his uncle Detrick, in whose service he remained for two years and five months. On the expiration of that period he began farming on his own account, as a renter, and so continued until the fall of 1870, when he purchased eighty-two and a half acres of land on section 23, Lanier township, where he now resides. With his young wife he removed to the new home, and as his financial resources increased he extended the boundaries of his farm by the purchase of an adjoining thirty acres, so that his present property comprises a little more than one hundred and eleven acres. His is one of the well improved places of the county, its fields are under a high state of cultivation and good buildings shelter the grain and stock. A substantial and attractive brick residence adds to the value of the place and everything is modern and kept in good repair. In past years Mr. Glander has given considerable attention to the breeding and raising of horses and hogs and this industry has proved a remunerative one. On the 5th of May, 1865, Mr. Glander married Miss Mary Ryder, a daughter of John and Hannah (Gebhart) Ryder. Their marriage has been blessed with six children: Laura L., the wife of John Unger, of Jackson township, Montgomery county; Thomas F., at

home; Elvia, wife of John Voge, of West Alexandria, Ohio; Clara B., the wife of Minford D. Johnson, of Lanier township, and Lucy R. and Ruth O., at home. In his political affiliations Mr. Glander is a Democrat, supporting national Democratic candidates, although in local elections he votes without regard to political ties. He has served as a member of the school board for a number of years and the cause of education has found in him a warm friend. He and his family are members of the Lutheran church and during the past decade he has been a trustee of the church and has been a deacon or elder for a number of years. He co-operates in all movements that he believes calculated to promote the intellectual, material, social and moral development of his community and is a public spirited and progressive citizen who ranks among the representative men of Lanier township by reason of his straightforward methods of business and his fidelity to duty in all life's relations.

LEVI MILLER.

Levi Miller, a well known citizen of Monroe township, is one of the oldest residents of Preble county. He was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, in 1817. His parents were George and Catherine Miller. His father died in Pennsylvania, and about 1831 the widowed mother, with her three sons and four daughters, came to Preble county and settled in Monroe township. The mother passed away in death at the extreme old age of ninety-two years.

In early life Levi Miller learned the carpenters' trade, and during the early pioneer development of the country he worked at that pursuit, building many log houses and

barns, nearly all buildings of the time being constructed of logs.

As a companion and helpmeet on life's journey, Mr. Miller chose Miss Susanna Wehrly, a native of Preble county. Her father was Samuel Wehrly, an honored pioneer of the county, who lived to be ninety-two years of age. Throughout a long period Levi Miller and his wife have traveled life's journey together, sharing with each other its joys and sorrows, its adversity and prosperity. Their marriage was blessed with thirteen children, and, with the exception of two who died in infancy, all yet reside in Preble county. These are Samuel, Andrew, Isaac, George, Amanda, wife of Samuel G. Hensel, of Monroe township; Polly Jane, wife of Lewis Richards, of Monroe township; Catherine, wife of Norman T. Sayler, of Monroe township; Lydia A., wife of Clarence A. Baker, of the same township; Mary, wife of Solomon Emrick, of Monroe township; Ermina, wife of William S. Guenther, of Monroe township, and Melzenia, wife of J. C. Ayers, of Eaton, Ohio.

ISAAC MILLER.

A worthy representative of the financial interests of Preble county is Isaac Miller, whose business and executive ability is of high order, making him fully competent to occupy his present position as cashier of the Eldorado branch of the Farmers' Bank of New Madison, Ohio. He was born in Monroe township, Preble county, on the 19th of January, 1855, and is a son of Levi Miller, of whom mention is just made. He was reared in his native township, acquiring his education in the common schools of the neighborhood and farming was the occupation that claimed much of his time and

attention in his early manhood. On the 1st of January, 1887, however, he began dealing in agricultural implements in connection with his brother-in-law, W. S. Coblentz, an association which was maintained for three years, after which Mr. Miller returned to the farm. He became the cashier of the Farmers' Bank of Eldorado in June of 1899, and in this capacity has since acceptably served.

On the 22nd of May, 1879, Mr. Miller married Miss Martha A. Beard, daughter of Jacob and Mary E. (Byers) Beard, both natives of Maryland and now deceased. Mrs. Miller was born in Preble county. Unto the above marriage were born three children, namely: Hallie, Maud L. and Carl D.

Public spirited and progressive, Mr. Miller has withheld his support from no measure or movement which he believes will prove of general benefit. In 1887 he was elected justice of the peace and for twelve years has held the position, a fact which indicates his personal popularity and the confidence reposed in him by his fellow townsmen. His decisions are fair and impartial, and neither fear nor favor can cause him to turn from a course which he believes to be right. He has also settled many large estates, and no trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed. He served for two years as township trustee, has for many years been a member of the school board and for four years has been treasurer of the Eldorado school district. He is now serving his third term as mayor of Eldorado and exercises his official prerogatives in support of such measures as will promote the substantial growth and improvement of the locality. In politics he is a Democrat, believing firmly in the principles of the party. Socially he

is connected with the Odd Fellows society, at West Manchester, and with Eldorado Lodge, No. 389, K. P., in which he has filled all the offices. He has been chosen to represent his local lodge in the grand lodge of Ohio, at Columbus and Piqua, and in his life he exemplifies the benevolent principles of the fraternity. Such is the record of one who has been an important factor in the public improvement as well as the business interests of his native county. His code of morals is such as to impel him to a just consideration of the rights of all with whom he has been brought in contact and to a conscientious observance of all the proprieties of life. Thus he has retained throughout his career friendships which have grown stronger with more intimate acquaintance and all who know him esteem him for his sterling worth.

SAMUEL MILLER.

Samuel Miller is a leading representative of the agricultural interests of Monroe township, where he owns and operates a most desirable farm of two hundred acres, on section 32. Of excellent business ability and broad resources, he has attained a prominent place among the substantial citizens of his part of the county, and is a recognized leader in public affairs. He has won success by his well-directed, energetic efforts, and the prosperity that has come to him is certainly well deserved.

Mr. Miller was born on the farm where he now resides, January 8, 1847, and is the oldest son of Levi Miller, whose sketch appears on another page of this volume. When he was four years old the family removed three miles east of his present home, in the same township, where he passed his boy-

hood and youth, attending the common schools of the neighborhood. He remained with his father until after his marriage.

On the 13th of January, 1870, Mr. Miller wedded Miss Lydia Stiver, who was born in Montgomery county, Ohio, October 21, 1844, a daughter of Henry and Sophia (Bickel) Stiver, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively. They located in Montgomery county, when Cincinnati was a mere hamlet containing only thirty houses. This was about 1801. Mrs. Miller was the seventh in order of birth in their family of eleven children, and was reared in her native county. To our subject and his wife were born the following children: Jennette B., now the wife of H. A. Spitler, a farmer of Monroe township; Charles M., who died at the age of nine months; Levi F., who died at the age of six years; William O., who died at the age of twelve years; and Henry N., Martin O., and Clara Pearl all at home.

For about two years after his marriage Mr. Miller engaged in farming upon his father's place, but since 1872 has made his home upon the farm where he was born, most of which is under a high state of cultivation. He raises both grain and stock, and in partnership with his brother Isaac deals in fertilizers, representing the firm of Hess & Brothers, doing a large business. In 1891 he assisted in organizing the creamery company at West Manchester, of which he has since been a stockholder and director, and he also handles the Page wire fence, being agent for Monroe township. He is a business man of more than ordinary ability, and generally carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

By his ballot Mr. Miller supports the men and measures of the Democratic party, and he takes quite an active and prominent

part in local affairs. He was elected infirmiry director in 1899, was trustee of the town three years, and has been a member of the school board about eighteen years. He has been thrice elected a member of the Preble county agricultural board. He also belongs to the Grange, and religiously is a member of the Evangelical Association. He has served as superintendent of the Sunday school, and is an ex-president of the township Sunday school association.

RICHARD L. GLANDER

Richard L. Glander was born in Lanier township, Preble county, Ohio, November 10, 1865, and is a son of John B. Glander, of whom mention is made in this volume. Mr. Glander carries on agricultural pursuits on section 10, Lanier township, being one of the enterprising and wide-awake farmers of his community. He was reared to manhood under the parental roof, early becoming familiar with the labors of field and meadow, and in the district schools he acquired his education. Throughout his entire life he has carried on agricultural pursuits. At the time of his marriage he located on the farm where he now resides, on section 10, Lanier township, and has since devoted his energies to the cultivation and improvement of the land, which, in return for his labor, yields to him good harvests. His farming methods are practical and progressive and upon his place are found all modern accessories and conveniences. He is also one of the stockholders of the Gem Canning Company, of West Alexandria, and is a young man of sound business judgment and of resolute purpose.

On the 21st of December, 1890, Mr. Glander wedded Miss Eleanor Hildebrand, a native of West Alexandria and a daughter

of Thomas and Jennie (Baer) Hildebrand. Her father was a native of Maryland and when a young man came to Preble county, locating in West Alexandria, where he was engaged in the cultivation of tobacco. Later he made his home in various places in Preble county and is now residing a mile and a half west of the city in which he first located. His wife is a native of Twin township and a daughter of Henry and Polly (Freeman) Baer, who were early pioneer settlers of Preble county. They took up their abode in the midst of the forest, where they entered one hundred and sixty acres of land, the northwest quarter of section 25. There Mr. Baer built a log house, made a clearing and developed a good farm. Deer were to be had in abundance at that early day and this entire section of the state was upon the very border of civilization. Mr. Baer bore his part in the work of development and upbuilding and was a valued citizen of his community until his death. His widow is still surviving, in her ninetieth year, and yet resides upon the old homestead. The marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Glander was blessed with one child, Howard H., who was born June 11, 1899, but is now deceased. In his political views our subject is a Republican and keeps well informed on the issues of the day. Both he and his wife are highly esteemed by all and enjoy the hospitality of the best homes in this section of the county, the circle of their friends being almost co-extensive with the circle of their acquaintances.

MARTIN L. FUDGE.

Martin L. Fudge, a well known farmer of Washington township, Preble county, was born in Monroe township, November

11, 1841. His father, Daniel Fudge, was a native of Warren county, Ohio, and a member of one of the early families of the Old Dominion. The grandfather, David Fudge, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, and was of German lineage. On leaving his native state he removed to Kentucky and in 1786 came to Ohio, establishing his home in Warren county. His brother, Jacob, was the first sheriff of Preble county. David Fudge was a very successful man. He removed to Preble county in 1812, becoming prominent in the early affairs of that locality. Daniel Fudge was born in 1808, and was therefore only four years of age at the time of his parents' arrival here. He lived and died in Monroe township, his death occurring in 1875. For fifteen years he served as justice of the peace and discharged his duties with such fairness and impartiality that he awakened general commendation. He was an earnest Christian gentleman and a man of the highest respectability. He wedded Sarah Kisling, a daughter of Henry Kisling, one of the early settlers of Warren county. She is still living, at the age of eighty-three years. By her marriage she became the mother of eleven children, six of whom yet survive, namely: Martin L., of this review; Elizabeth, widow of George Cyrle, of Illinois; Daniel, who is living in Johnson county, Texas; Henry, a resident of Wells county, Indiana; Albert, who makes his home in New Paris, Ohio; and Fanny, who is still with her mother.

Mr. Fudge, of this review, received such educational advantages as the common schools afforded. Throughout his life he has been identified with agricultural pursuits, and in 1866 he purchased the farm upon which he yet resides, becoming owner

of one hundred and sixty-three acres of land, which he has made a very valuable property. The well tilled fields yield to him a golden tribute in return for his care and labor, and all modern accessories and conveniences are found upon his place. His business affairs have been energetically conducted and have been crowned with a high degree of success.

On the 23d of November, 1865, Mr. Fudge was united in marriage to Miss Mary Ann Swartzel, a daughter of Jacob Swartzel, of Montgomery county, Ohio. They now have two living children and have lost one. Lawrence, the elder, is a graduate of Capital University, of Columbus, Ohio, and is a minister of the Evangelical church in Chicago. Anderson C. is a farmer of Jackson township, Preble county. The parents are consistent and faithful members of the Evangelical Lutheran Zion church, of which Mr. Fudge has long been a trustee. He takes a very active and earnest interest in its work, doing all in his power to promote its growth. His political support is given the Democracy. In his business affairs he has been very successful, and to-day he is classified among the substantial citizens of his native county. His life has been well spent and his activity in business affairs ranks him among the enterprising and wide-awake agriculturists of Washington township.

CHARLES W. CONLEY, M. D.

In the subject of this review we have one who has attained to distinction in the line of his profession. He has been an earnest and discriminating student and he holds a position of due relative precedence among

the medical practitioners of Eaton and Preble county. He is a native of Feesburg, Brown county, Ohio, born on the 3d day of July, in 1866. Of Scotch-Irish ancestry, he represents families that were established in America in an early day. His grandfather, Thomas Conley, was a native of Pennsylvania, and died at the age of seventy years. He was a son of Thomas Conley, who was born in Scotland, was a soldier in the American Revolution and a pioneer settler of Clermont county, Ohio. His parents were Rev. Oliver P. and Mary E. (Tatmin) Conley, both natives of Clermont county, Ohio. Their marriage was celebrated in 1865. The father was for twenty years or more a successful teacher and holds a life certificate in the state. On abandoning that profession he entered the ministry of the United Brethren church, and at present is connected with the United Brethren Church Publishing House of that denomination, making his home in Eaton. His education was acquired almost entirely through his own efforts after leaving the common schools, but he is now a man of broad, scholarly attainments. Both the parents of our subject are living. In their family were three sons and three daughters, and the circle yet remains unbroken by the hand of death. Dr. Conley is the eldest; Eva E., the second, was for several years a teacher, but is now the wife of L. A. Frame, a farmer of Preble county; Lucile is a graduate of the Mercy Hospital Training School, of Chicago, and is now a proficient nurse; John T., Grant and Leona are still under the parental roof. The children have been given excellent educational advantages and, with the exception of the youngest, each holds a diploma from some college or high school. Leona is a student

in the Eaton high school at the present time.

Dr. Conley acquired his elementary education in the common schools and later pursued his studies in the Eaton Normal School. For six years he worked by the month as a farm hand in Preble county and for eleven years he was engaged in teaching, proving a capable educator, whose ability to impart clearly and concisely to others the knowledge he had acquired was most marked. While concerned with the duties of the school room he began the study of medicine, pursuing his first course of lectures in the Eclectic Medical Institute of Cincinnati. Subsequently he resumed teaching, and also continued his studies along professional lines for eleven years. He completed a four-years course in the Eclectic Medical Institute in 1894 and began practicing as a representative of that school of medicine. He afterward took a course in Rush Medical College, of Chicago, in which he was graduated in 1898. He combines the two schools of medicine in his practice, taking the best from each. He followed his profession in New Hope, Preble county, from June, 1895, until 1898, and then came to Eaton. He has established a large and lucrative practice in the county, stands among the leaders of his profession in this city and is rated as a successful physician. He makes a close and earnest study of the science of medicine, and the success which has attended his efforts is but in natural sequence. His heart is ever in his work, and he has gained not only the respect and confidence, but the appreciative affection of his patients, his humanity being ever paramount to his professional and scientific instincts. He is very careful in diagnosing diseases, and his knowledge of the science

of medicine is comprehensive and accurate. He possesses the only X-ray machine in Preble county, and it has proven of great value to him in his practice. He also possesses one of the most perfect microscopes manufactured and has a finely equipped office and a large professional library. He is a member of the Ohio State Medical Society and of the Chicago Medical Society.

Dr. Conley was married, in 1887, to Miss Elmetta N. Curry, a native of Preble county, and a daughter of John P. and Martha Curry, also natives of this county and representatives of early families here. Two children grace their union, Lowry M., who was born July 20, 1888, and Fern, born July 13, 1893. The Doctor is prominently associated with several fraternal societies, including the Masonic order, the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, the Knights of Pythias and the Improved Order of Red Men. Although his father and brothers are Republicans, he votes with the Democratic party and has stanch faith in its principles. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church. He is a physician of great professional delicacy, and no man observes more closely the ethics of the unwritten professional code or shows more careful courtesy to his fellow practitioners than does Dr. Conley. In his professional work he has done great good and his advancement is assured.

ALBERT M. CRISLER.

Whatever else may be said of the legal fraternity, it cannot be denied that the members of the bar have been more prominent actors in public affairs than any other class of the community. This is but the natural result of causes which are manifest and require no explanation. The ability and train-

ing which qualify one to practice law, also qualify him in many respects for duties which lie outside the strict path of his profession and which touch the general interests of society. Holding marked precedence among the members of the bar of Eaton is Mr. Crisler whose ability has gained him a place of distinctive preferment among the representatives of the legal profession in Preble county.

He was born in Hartsville, Indiana, February 12, 1857. His father, Albert Crisler, was a native of Culpeper county, Virginia, and a son of William Crisler, a native of the same locality. The great-grandfather was Adam Crisler, and his father was Fawet Crisler, a native of Germany, who crossed the Atlantic and founded a home in the New World. The year 1815 witnessed the arrival of William Crisler in Ohio. He located in Monroe township, being one of the early settlers there. Albert Crisler, the father of our subject, was a farmer and teacher and in business affairs met with creditable and gratifying success. He was recognized as one of the prominent residents of the community, and his fellow townsmen honored him with a number of public positions of trust and responsibility. His death occurred in 1857, and his wife passed away in the same year. She bore the maiden name of Anna Foos and was a daughter of Jacob Foos, of Monroe township, Preble county. In their family were eleven children, seven of whom are yet living, namely: Jessie L., a resident of Lebanon, Indiana; Jacob F., who makes his home in Sherman, Texas; Jennie D., widow of L. D. Meeker, of Greenville, Ohio; William H., of Carson City, Nevada; Rev. Levi H., of Olando, Florida; Lizzie, wife of William Hopkins, of Greenville, Ohio; and A. M., of this review.

In the public schools A. M. Crisler acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by a year's study in both the State University and the Wooster College. Determining to make the practice of law his life work he matriculated in the law department of the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, and was graduated in the class of 1881. Admitted to the bar, he at once entered upon the practice of his profession and from the beginning was unusually prosperous in every respect. The success which he has attained is the result of his own efforts and merits. The possession of advantages is no guarantee whatever of professional success. This comes not of itself, nor can it be secured without integrity, ability and industry. Those qualities he possesses to an eminent degree, and in his career he has been faithful to every interest committed to his charge. In the year of his admission to the bar, 1881, he was elected prosecuting attorney, and on the expiration of his term was re-elected, in 1884. In 1893 he was again chosen for that office, which he filled altogether for three terms, or nine years. He was at one time the candidate for judge of the court of common pleas, and, although defeated, he succeeded in largely reducing the usual Democratic majority. In October, 1898, he was appointed by Judge Thomson, of Cincinnati, to the position of referee in bankruptcy for Preble county. This position Mr. Crisler resigned in the spring of 1900, to accept the position of mayor of Eaton, to which he had just been elected. He engages in general practice, and is one of the most prominent and able members of the Preble county bar. His knowledge of law is comprehensive, accurate and exact; his preparation of cases is thorough and effective; and before court or jury his power

of argument is noted with telling effect. He is a very eloquent, logical and convincing speaker, and this has made him particularly successful as a trial lawyer. He has tried all the murder cases in the county since 1881 and has been prosecuting attorney for not less than six cases tried for capital punishment. His clientage is large and his devotion to the interests of his patrons is proverbial.

Mr. Crisler has long been recognized as one of the leading advocates of Republican principles in Preble county and has taken a very active interest in political affairs, his efforts resulting greatly to the benefit of his party. He has a wide reputation as a campaign speaker and his addresses, while always entertaining and frequently amusing, are founded upon a substratum of logic and fact that never fails to carry weight with his audiences. Since 1881 he has been a very prominent member of the Masonic fraternity exemplifying in his life the beneficent principles of the order, whose cardinal teachings concern mutual helpfulness and charity. He has held all the offices of his local lodge and is now secretary of the chapter. He is also a member of the Phi Delta Theta, the Greek letter society of his college. His social qualities and many admirable characteristics have won him the confidence and regard of his fellow men and made him a popular citizen.

ADAM SHADE.

On one of the well-improved and highly developed farms of Gratis township resides Adam Shade, an enterprising German farmer who in the new world has found opportunity to work his way upward, and by determined

purpose and unflagging energy has reached a position of affluence. He was born in Baden, Germany, at Kolbach, on the 1st of April, 1843. His father, John Shade, was a native of the same locality, and came to America several years prior to the time when he sent for his family. He had two sons and two daughters, who, with the mother, crossed the Atlantic about 1850. He became a foreman in the Wolf Rolling Mill in Newport, Kentucky. When the cholera epidemic broke out about 1853 his wife fell a victim to that disease. He also died, and one of their sons, leaving our subject and his two sisters, Margaret and Rachel, alone. Adam Shade was placed in an orphan asylum at Mount Auburn, Cincinnati, by the Lutherans and received his education there. At the age of fourteen he was bound out to Lewis Wagner, of Butler county, Ohio, but as he was not pleased with his new home he left his employer, at the age of sixteen years, and went to the Little Miami district, where he secured work as a farm hand for five dollars per month.

Later he entered the employ of Jacob F. Stover, of Preble county, for whom he worked by the month until May, 1861, when, at the call of his country, he responded and joined Company C, Thirteenth Ohio Infantry, under command of Captain B. P. Runkle. He enlisted for three years, and in 1863 re-enlisted in the same regiment. At Stone River he was wounded and was sent to the hospital, where he remained for six months. He participated in the battles of Shiloh or Pittsburg Landing, and the engagements at Stone River. At different times he was under the commands of Generals Rosecrans, Buell and Thomas, the latter being corps commander. On the 5th of December, 1865, he was in Texas, and on the 13th of Jan-

uary, 1866, he received an honorable discharge at Columbus, Ohio.

For a year thereafter Mr. Shade remained at Seven Mile, Butler county, Ohio, and then went to Texas, where he was employed as a cowboy for two years. On the expiration of that period he returned to his old employer, Mr. Stover. In the fall of 1869 he went to Colorado, where he worked on the farm until the spring of 1871, and returning then to Preble county he was, on the 14th of September, 1871, united in marriage to Sarah E. Simpson, of Preble county, a daughter of William and Susanna (Wagner) Simpson, the former a native of Ohio and the latter of Virginia. The Wagners were of German lineage. Mr. and Mrs. Shade went to Colorado soon after their marriage, where our subject engaged in the cultivation of rented land for eleven years. The children born unto them are: Wilson, a native of Ohio; Charles, married and engaged in farming; Royal and Florence. Returning to the Buckeye state, Mr. Shade purchased the old Chrisman farm, on the 21st of June, 1882. The place comprises one hundred and sixty-two acres, and the purchase price was sixty-four hundred dollars, of which he paid down one-half, incurring an indebtedness of three thousand dollars. In course of time this was paid off and he has since made many excellent improvements, transforming the property into one of the finest farms of the neighborhood. He has an attractive and substantial residence, good barns and outbuildings and excellent orchards. He has rebuilt the residence, which was a log structure and one of the oldest in the state. It was built by Daniel Chrisman, who settled there in 1808. The deed from the United States government to Mr. Chrisman is dated June 23,

1810, and is signed by James Madison, then president of the United States. It is a well preserved piece of sheepskin.

Mr. Shade carries on general farming, growing corn, wheat, tobacco and oats. He feeds his oats and corn to his stock, selling his other products. He has raised three thousand bushels of corn, six hundred bushels of wheat and six hundred bushels of oats in a single season. He annually sells about fifty or sixty fine Jersey Red hogs. Upon the place are also two excellent orchards, of apples and other fruits, and the trees are in a thrifty condition. They were planted by him and will yield their fruits long after he has passed away. Mr. Shade is a very industrious and energetic man who believes in doing well whatever he has to do. He attributes his success in life largely to the influence of Grandfather Chrisman, who proved to him a tried and true friend, and to his wife, who has indeed been to him a faithful companion and helpmate. Mr. and Mrs. Shade have many warm friends through the community and well merit the high esteem in which they are uniformly held.

THOMAS BUCK.

Among those once active in the business affairs of Preble county is one who at death left an untarnished name as a priceless heritage to his family, Thomas Buck, who died on the 18th of June, 1879, at the age of fifty-four years. His father was Samuel Buck, of South Carolina, who, when only ten years of age, came to Preble county, Ohio, taking up his abode here in 1811. This district was then a frontier settlement, with the work of civilization and progress scarcely begun. His father died in South

Carolina and his mother afterward married a Mr. Stewart. Some years after the death of the latter the widow brought her family to Preble county, locating on wild land, which was transformed into a good home.

Samuel Buck was the youngest of his father's family. Some of the children remained in South Carolina, but he and three sisters, together with a half-brother, came to the Buckeye state at that early period of its pioneer development. Having arrived at years of maturity, he married Miss Margaret McDill, a native of South Carolina and a daughter of Thomas McDill, who was brought to the county in her youth. Her father served in the war of 1812 and died in his thirty-seventh year. Samuel Buck took up his abode in Indiana, but afterward removed to Israel township, Preble county. By his marriage he became the father of nine children, of whom two daughters are yet living. In his business affairs he prospered and at his death left an excellent estate, Thomas Buck, of this review, inheriting a valuable farm.

The latter was reared in the usual manner of farmer lads of that time and enjoyed such privileges and advantages as were afforded in pioneer settlements of that day. He early became familiar with all the duties and labors of developing and improving land, and on entering on his business career followed the pursuit which had occupied his attention in his youth. He was married in January, 1850, to Miss Margaret Williamson, who was born in Greene county, Ohio, a daughter of Alexander Williamson, of Sugar Creek. Her father lost his wife in Iowa and was left with a family of children to care for, there being five children by that marriage, of whom three are yet living. Mrs. Buck has two sisters, Mrs.

Mary Jane Hayes, a widow living near Fair Haven, and Mrs. Rhoda Hayes, also a widow, who is living in Monmouth, Illinois. The father of these children died in Louisa county, Iowa, after which Mrs. Buck was brought by her people to Preble county, where she was married. Of the ten children born of their union, three are yet living. Samuel died at the age of thirty-three years, leaving a widow; William died, leaving a widow and one son; Charles died in his twenty-fifth year; Anna resides with her mother; Minor died leaving three children; Armitta is the wife of Rev. J. H. Miller, the pastor of the Peter's Creek church; and Charlotte is at her parental home. The children were all provided with excellent educational privileges. Mrs. Miller was graduated in Muskingum College and was a successful teacher prior to her marriage. Her husband is also a graduate of the same school and is now in charge of the church at Peter's Creek, Pennsylvania. Samuel and Charles Buck were educated in Monmouth College, Illinois. Samuel engaged in preaching for several years. Charles graduated in the literary course, but died before he had completed his first year in the theological seminary at Xenia, Ohio. The youngest son, Minor, superintended the farm until his death at Anthony, Kansas, in 1895, after which Mrs. Buck and her two daughters assumed entire control. Mrs. Buck is enjoying excellent health for a lady of her years and has a large circle of friends.

HENRY F. EHLERS.

A well-known representative of the agricultural interests of Preble county, Henry F. Ehlers, is the owner of a fine farm on section 7, Twin township. His place is well

improved with all modern accessories and conveniences, the fields are under a high state of cultivation and abundant harvests are garnered. He also makes a specialty of stock-raising, and in both branches of his business meets with success. His methods are progressive and practical, his work is vigorously prosecuted, his affairs are capably managed and he is justly regarded as one of the best farmers in his section of the state.

Mr. Ehlers was born in Newport, Kentucky, November 6, 1852, a son of Albert and Rebecca (Kosson) Ehlers. As the name indicates, the family is of German origin. The grandfather, Henry Ehlers, came to America and made his home with his son Albert and another son living in New Orleans. The father of our subject was born in amt Hedinghausen, Germany, October 22, 1822, and was there reared to manhood. At the age of fourteen he apprenticed himself to a tailor and after the completion of his term of service worked as a journeyman until 1848, when he crossed the Atlantic to America upon a sailing vessel, which ultimately dropped anchor in the harbor of New York. Among his fellow passengers was Rebecca Kosson, whom he afterward married. He arrived in this country with only fifty cents in his pocket. He went from New York to Baltimore, where he worked for one year at his trade, after which he removed to Cincinnati, Ohio. There he was employed for three years as a journeyman, and then crossed the river into Newport, Kentucky, where he opened a tailoring establishment of his own, carrying on business for three years.

On the expiration of that period he removed to West Alexandria, Ohio, and soon afterward purchased thirty acres of land in Twin township, near the county line. For

some years following he engaged in the tailoring business through the winter seasons, while in the summer months he cultivated his farm. Later, however, he disposed of that land and purchased eighty acres west of Scuffletown, where he lived until his retirement from business life. He is now a resident of West Alexandria. In politics he is a Democrat, and for many years has been a leader in the Lutheran church, of which he has been a life-long member. His wife was born in Hanover, Germany, October 24, 1820, and is a daughter of Henry and Adeline Kosson, both of whom were natives of Hanover. Mr. and Mrs. Ehlers had nine children, seven of whom are living, namely: Anna, the widow of Henry Lang, of Dayton, Ohio; Henry F., of this review; Sophia, the wife of John Pufogle, of Lanier township, Preble county; John H., a prominent business man of West Alexandria; Ella, the wife of David Ryder, of Twin township; Lizzie, the wife of Elmer Huffman, of Lexington, Ohio; and George W., who is engaged in the furniture and undertaking business at West Alexandria.

Mr. Ehlers, whose name begins this sketch, was reared at his parental home and acquired his education in the common schools. At the age of fourteen he began earning his own livelihood, working by the month in order to aid his father in paying off his debts. When twenty years of age he began business on his own account on a small scale, planting a crop of tobacco, and at the same time assisted his father in the cultivation of the home farm. He was thus engaged until his marriage, when his father gave him a horse, saddle and bridle.

As a companion and helpmate on life's journey he chose Miss Sarah C. Kaylor, the wedding being celebrated on the 4th of Feb-

ruary, 1877, at which time Mr. Ehlers was twenty-four years of age. The lady is a native of Preble county and a daughter of William and Rebecca Kaylor. Her father was born in Virginia, September 23, 1808, and with his parents came to Preble county when about six years of age. He was reared in Washington township and later purchased the old homestead on which his father located when he came to Ohio. Mr. Ehlers is a representative and prominent agriculturist of the county. By the marriage of our subject and his wife nine children have been born, of whom seven are living, namely: Edward, Clara, Lawrence, Harvey, Ida, Lottie and Flora. The children are all at home and are being provided with good educational privileges that they may be fitted for life's practical and responsible duties.

After his marriage Mr. Ehlers rented a farm of eighty acres near Pymont, and after cultivating that land for a year he had another (rented) farm, near his present home, for a year. In March, 1880, he purchased one hundred and thirty-four acres of land and has since devoted his time and energies to the conduct of the place. He has been very successful, has made a specialty of the raising of tobacco, and is also a successful stock-raiser, feeding nearly all of his grain to his stock. He has a well improved property and in 1896 he erected a very commodious and pleasant residence. In addition to his own farm he operates his father's land, and is justly regarded as one of the prominent and prosperous agriculturists of his community. For fourteen years he has served as a member of the school board and has done what he could to secure excellent schools that the children might be well fitted for life. He and his wife hold member-

ship in the Lutheran church, in which he served as a deacon for four years. They are worthy and highly esteemed residents of the community, and their many excellencies of character have gained for them the high regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact.

HENRY H. FARR.

The prosperity, upbuilding and progress of a community depends upon its enterprising business men whose keen judgment and close application enable them to carry forward to successful completion whatever they undertake. One of the most prominent representatives of the financial, commercial and industrial interests of Eaton is Mr. Farr, who is now engaged in the insurance business, and is known as a capitalist whose creditable place in business circles has been obtained by his own efforts. He was born in Franklin county, Indiana, May 1, 1846. His father, Price Farr, was a native of New Jersey and a son of Elias Farr, who removed to Oxford, Indiana, where he died in 1859. He was a tailor by trade, and also followed agricultural pursuits. In early life Price Farr engaged in teaching school, and was also connected with a store. Later he turned his attention to the farm and engaged in the operation of a valuable tract of land until 1861, when he retired from the farm and active business affairs. His efforts were crowned with a high degree of success, and at the same time he won that good name which is rather to be chosen than great riches, for his career was characterized by the strictest fidelity to duty and honesty. He died in 1896, highly respected by all who knew him. He married Elizabeth Bake, a daughter of William Bake, who was

one of the early settlers of Franklin county, Indiana. She died in 1894. Both Mr. and Mrs. Farr were liberal supporters of the Universalist church, and earnest Christian people, charitable in thought and action. They had two children, the elder being William L., a resident of Liberty, Indiana.

Henry H. Farr, the youngest son, pursued his education in the common schools of Oxford and in the Miami University, where he was graduated in the class of 1867. He afterward engaged in teaching in Union county, Indiana, for six months, and in July, 1868, he came to Eaton, where in connection with his brother he opened a drug store which they conducted for one year. At the expiration of that period Mr. Farr, of this review, purchased another drug store and continued as its proprietor until 1871, when he sold out, for the close confinement of the store did not agree with him. He then turned his attention to the insurance business, and in 1873 went to Decatur, Alabama, where he conducted a sawmill for three years. Returning to Eaton in 1876, he once more entered the insurance business and was a representative of leading old-line companies until 1886, when he sold out and established a grocery and queensware store which he conducted for five years. On the expiration of that period, however, he returned to his insurance agency and is now representing a number of the leading fire insurance companies of the country. He is a man of resourceful business ability whose efforts are by no means limited to one line, and with a number of paying enterprises he is now connected. He is operating a stone quarry near Eaton in connection with M. W. Nation, taking out limestone. He holds an interest in the Eaton Canning Company; is also interested in an incandescent light

plant of Cincinnati; and is treasurer of the Eaton Loan & Building Association. He became one of the charter members on its organization, and since that time has been in charge of financial affairs. He has also been secretary of the Preble County Agricultural Association for twenty years. He carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. The development of the west is due to such men whose indomitable energy and progressive spirit have overcome all obstacles and reached the goal of success. He is not so abnormally developed as to be called a genius, but is one of the strongest because one of the best balanced, the most even and self-masterful of men, and he has acted so well his part in both public and private life that Eaton has been enriched by his example, his character and his labor.

On the 18th of November, 1869, Mr. Farr was united in marriage to Miss Mary E. Minor, a daughter of W. H. H. B. Minor, a very successful practicing physician of Eaton. They now have three children: Elizabeth, wife of Lee R. Kinnear, of Henry, Illinois; and Minor and Loring, at home. Since attaining his majority Mr. Farr has been a member of the Masonic fraternity, and has held a number of offices in his lodge. He is most true and faithful to the principles of Masonry, exemplifying in his life its beneficent teachings. As a man of business his ability has been constantly manifest in one phase or another, showing excellent power and executive strength, and today he stands among the capitalists of his adopted city—a position which he well merits. His life has indeed been a commendable one, and he enjoys the good will and respect of those with whom business and social relations have brought him in contact.

WILSON FUDGE.

Among the native sons of Preble county is Wilson Fudge, who gives his time and attention to agricultural pursuits in Washington township. He was born in Monroe township, on the 5th of October, 1840, and is a grandson of David Fudge, who was a very prosperous farmer of Ohio. George Fudge, his father, was born in Washington township, Preble county, in 1816, and throughout his entire life carried on agricultural pursuits in order to support his family. His business interests were so carefully and so ably directed by sound judgment and practical common-sense that he became a very prosperous farmer and acquired large tracts of land. In religious belief, he was a Universalist and became a charter member of the Monroe church. He served as trustee of his township and at all times took a deep and abiding interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community. His death occurred in 1864 and his wife passed away in 1899. She bore the maiden name of Mary Disher, and was a daughter of Daniel Disher, of Virginia. Unto that worthy couple were born ten children, of whom three are now living, namely: Wilson; George, a resident of Kansas; and Jane, wife of J. Q. Beard.

Wilson Fudge, whose name heads this sketch, is indebted to the common schools of Preble county for the educational advantages which he received. He pursued his studies through the winter season, but in the summer had to remain at home for he was the oldest son and his services were needed in the work of cultivating the home farm. In 1880 he began farming on his own account, purchasing the land upon which he now resides. He has one hundred and sixty

acres divided into two tracts and the greater part of this is under a high state of cultivation, the well tilled fields giving him golden harvests. He is a man of marked energy and force of character who realizes the importance of continuous and well directed labor in gaining prosperity.

On the 5th of November, 1863, Mr. Fudge was married to Miss Catherine Creager, daughter of Ezra and Delilah Creager, of Montgomery county, Ohio. Their union has been blessed with eleven children, ten of whom are living, namely: Lulu, who attended the high school and subsequently was a student in Yale College, is now the widow of Noah Ware and lives with her parents; Charles resides near the old homestead. Leoti, who attended the National Normal School at Lebanon, Warren county, Ohio, is an excellent elocutionist, having traveled in the interest of her profession as well as having given private instructions in the art, and is now the wife of J. O. Creager, at Dobbs' Ferry, New York; Jennie and Bertie are yet at home; Hattie is engaged in teaching in Preble county; Pearl is the wife of Benjamin Pence and resides near her father's home; Joseph, Frank and Mary are still under the parental roof. Mr. Fudge is an independent Democrat. He frequently votes the Democratic ticket but does not consider himself bound by party ties and is not strongly partisan. He holds membership in the Universalist church, of which he has been a trustee for six years. He is a member of the Preble county vigilance committee and socially belongs to the Odd Fellows society and the Knights of Pythias fraternity. No trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed and his worth as a citizen and as an individual is widely recognized by all who know him.

JOHN E. JORDAN.

The noble art of husbandry has ever been the conservator of our national progress and prosperity, and among those prominently concerned as its votaries in Preble county is the subject of this review, whose fine farmstead is located on section 13, Twin township.

John Edward Jordan is a native son of the township in which he now figures as a successful farmer and influential citizen, the date of his birth having been September 23, 1856. He is the son of John and Elizabeth (Vance) Jordan, to whom were born five children, all of whom survive, namely: Joseph Harvey, of West Alexandria, Ohio; John E., subject of this review; Mary M., wife of David Ludwick, of Dayton, this state; Orion E., who resides at the old homestead; Laura B., wife of John Bixler, a farmer of Darke county, Ohio.

John Jordan, the father of our subject, was born in Buckingham county, Virginia, in 1816, and he was a lad of sixteen when he accompanied his father, Henry Jordan, on his removal from the Old Dominion state to Preble county, Ohio, where they settled in Lanier township, near Enterprise. Here John Jordan was reared to maturity and here was celebrated his first marriage. He married Miss Catherine Stiver, and to them five children were born, of whom two survive, namely: Amanda, wife of Simon Geeting, of Twin township, this county; and Catherine, wife of George Williams, also of Preble county. Those dead were Caroline, Jane and Henry.

Immediately after his marriage John Jordan purchased one hundred acres of land on section 14, Twin township, where he engaged in farming upon an extensive scale,

being signally prosperous in his efforts and eventually adding another sixty acres to his estate, which thus comprised the southeast quarter of section 14. Here he lived until his life's labors were ended and he passed to his reward. After the death of his first wife he married Elizabeth Vance, the mother of our subject. He was a member of the Reformed German Baptist church, in politics was a Republican, and was known and honored as one of the upright and representative citizens of the county. His death occurred in 1888. Elizabeth (Vance) Jordan was born in Twin township, Preble county, on the 11th of January, 1828, being the daughter of Jacob and Elizabeth Vance, who were numbered among the early settlers of Preble county, whither they came from Pennsylvania, which was their native state. The mother of our subject is still living and resides with her son on the old homestead.

John E. Jordan was reared under the sturdy discipline of farm life, growing to maturity on the parental homestead and acquiring his education in the public schools of the county. On the 19th of February, 1882, he was united in marriage to Miss Ella Wikle, daughter of Samuel Wikle, of whom a personal sketch is incorporated on other pages of this work, and after this important domestic event in his life he settled down to the work of farming on his present estate of one hundred acres, which was given to him by his father. Here he has prospered through progressive methods and marked discrimination in the management of his business affairs, having given special attention to the raising of tobacco and breeding of high-grade swine, in both of which lines of enterprise he has been very successful, as has he also in general farming, his place

being under a most advanced state of cultivation and yielding excellent tribute to the labor and attention bestowed. Mr. Jordan is a man of sterling character, is one of the progressive citizens of the county and is held in high esteem in the community where practically his entire life has been passed. He is public-spirited in his attitude and gives a ready support to all worthy enterprises. He and his wife are members of the New Lutheran church, in whose work they maintain a deep interest. In politics Mr. Jordan exercises his franchise in support of the Republican party and its principles. Fraternally he is identified with Lewisburg Lodge, No. 625, Knights of Pythias. The family circle is brightened by the presence of two interesting children; Charles E. and Clara M.

ISAAC WARE.

Prominent among the citizens of Preble county who have witnessed the marvelous development of this section of the state from pioneer days, and who have, by honest toil and industry, succeeded in acquiring a competence, is the gentleman whose name introduces this review. He has been prominently identified with the upbuilding and advancement of the county, but is now practically living retired at his comfortable home on section 21, Monroe township.

Mr. Ware is a native of Preble county, born in Twin township, October 6, 1826, and is a son of John and Sarah (Coble) Ware. His father was born in Tennessee, and when about eighteen years of age went to North Carolina, where he married. Later he came to this county and took up his residence in Twin township, where he reared fourteen children, six sons and eight daughters, all of whom reached manhood or

womanhood, namely: Eliza, Polly and Ann, all now deceased; David, a resident of West Alexandria, Preble county; John Coble, deceased; Jacob, of Palestine, Darke county; Sophia, the widow of John Boner, of Dayton; Abby, deceased; Isaac, our subject; Sarah, who is the widow of Harrison Wilkinson, and lives west of Eaton; Andrew and Emeline, both deceased; Mary Eve, unmarried; and Martin V., who lives on a farm near West Alexandria, Ohio.

The boyhood and youth of our subject were passed in the usual manner of farmer boys on the frontier, and he pursued his studies in the little log schoolhouse so common at that day. He remained under the parental roof until he was married, at the age of twenty-three years, to Miss Julia Ann Shining, who was born in Germany and was about three years old when brought to America by her parents. By this union were born six children, three of whom are now living, namely: Mary, the wife of Sylvester Pety, of Preble county; Alice, the wife of Jacob Trassel, of Monroe township; and Joseph H., who resides with our subject, attending to the latter's business and is now serving as a trustee of Monroe township.

Mr. Ware began his married life in Twin township, where he operated a sawmill and worked at the carpenter's trade. For almost a quarter of a century he successfully engaged in contracting and building, and is well known as a barn-builder, making a specialty of the large bank barns. He has erected more barns in this county than any other man, and has also built a large number in Darke county, besides many of the early residences, including a large number of brick houses in this county. He has never had a law suit in his life, always having amicably settled all business affairs. Success

has attended his well-directed efforts, and he is now one of the most prosperous and substantial men of his community, owning three hundred and fifty acres of valuable land in this county.

Politically Mr. Ware is a Democrat. Although liberal in his religious views, and though not a member of any denomination, he built the Evangelical church on his own land near his home, and donated it to the society. During the long years of his residence in Preble county he has championed every movement designed to promote the general welfare, has supported every enterprise for the public good, and has materially aided in the advancement of all social and moral interests. After a useful and honorable career he can well afford to lay aside all business cares and live in ease and retirement.

GEORGE KIMMEL.

This prominent and representative citizen of Monroe township, who throughout life has been identified with the agricultural interests of Preble county, was born in Jackson township, April 30, 1827, and belongs to one of its highly respected old families. His father, Jacob Kimmel was a native of Pennsylvania, born in 1805, and was a son of Jacob Kimmel, Sr., who also was born in that state, but the latter's father was by birth a German. On coming west Jacob Kimmel, Sr., located first in Montgomery county, Ohio, but spent his last days in Wayne county, Indiana, where he died at a good old age.

When about twenty-one years of age the father of our subject removed to Montgomery county, Ohio, where he married Julia A. Gephart, a native of that county

and a daughter of George Gephart, who also was born in Pennsylvania, of German ancestry. In religious faith both families were Lutherans. Soon after his marriage Jacob Kimmel came to Preble county, and located in Jefferson township near the little village of Gettysburg, where he purchased eighty acres of land. He was a carpenter by trade and built many of the houses and barns in his locality, hewing the timber with a broad-ax. He finally sold his first farm and moved two miles farther north, where he lived for some time, but died at the home of our subject, May 7, 1854. His wife had passed away October 8, 1847, at the age of thirty-eight years. Both were reared in the Lutheran faith and were honored and esteemed by all who knew them. In their family were seven children, all of whom were born in Preble county, our subject being the oldest; Jacob is a resident of Eaton, Ohio; Sarah is the wife of William Potter, of Christian county, Illinois; John died June 22, 1854, aged twenty years; Peter is a farmer of Monroe township, this county, and Elizabeth and William are both deceased.

Amidst pioneer scenes George Kimmel grew to manhood, while his education was obtained in the rude log school house so common in those early days, with its huge fire place, slab benches and puncheon desks resting on pins driven into the wall. At the age of nineteen he commenced learning the carpenter's trade, but remained at home assisting his father until he attained his majority, when he began contracting and building on his own account. He employed a large force of hands and superintended most of the building in Washington and Jefferson townships until 1856, since which time he has devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits.

On the 27th of June, 1849, Mr. Kimmel married Miss Letticia Harshman, who was born in Washington township, November 19, 1830, and was reared there. Her father, Peter Harshman, was a native of Virginia, and was a young man of twenty-one years when he came to this state, locating in Warren county, where for a few years he was compelled to live alone, the hostile disposition of the Indians who inhabited the forests by which his cabin was surrounded making it too dangerous for women to venture into the new country. After his marriage he came to Preble county and cleared and improved a farm in Washington township, where he died in 1862. He was a soldier in the war of 1812. He was twice married and by the first union had seven children, one of whom is still living, namely: John Harshman, of Eaton, this county. For his second wife he wedded Mary Glines, who was born in New Hampshire, in 1803, and lived to be eighty-nine years of age, while her sister, Mrs. Morgan, of Eaton, lived to be ninety-six. Both retained all their faculties and were well preserved at the time of death. Mr. Harshman was of German descent. By his second marriage he had nine children, of whom Mrs. Kimmel is the third in order of birth. The others who are still living are Lewis J., who resides on the old homestead north of Eaton; Samuel D., who is also living there; Mary A., the widow of Joseph Mills, of New Paris, and Harriet, the widow of John Mills, of Eldorado.

For about three years after his marriage, Mr. Kimmel lived in a little house on his father's farm. In 1851 he purchased his present farm of two hundred and fifteen acres on section 16, Monroe township, which has since been his home. When he took up his residence thereon it was almost entirely a native

forest, and the improvements consisted of a couple of log huts, but the rich soil is now under excellent cultivation, and the improvements are substantial and commodious. In 1872, while the present handsome residence was being built the frame house in which the family then resided caught fire, and, with most of the household furniture, was consumed.

Mr. and Mrs. Kimmel are the parents of seven children, namely: John Martin, born August 25, 1850, married Fena Rittenhour and is engaged in the clothing business in Eldorado. William Albert, born September 20, 1852, married first Sally Bowen, by whom he had one daughter, May Cody, and secondly Mary (Molly) Zeigenbine, and he now lives in Dayton, Ohio. Mary Frances, born May 25, 1857, is the wife of Horace Horne, of Eldorado. J. Peter Lincoln, born June 16, 1860, is a resident of Eldorado. Ozroe Franklin, born June 1, 1863, is engaged in the grain business in New Weston, Darke county, Ohio. Orlando Perry, born December 25, 1866, is a physician of Campbellstown, Preble county. Flora Viola, born December 28, 1873, is the wife of Rev. Lauren Fudge, a well educated man and a minister of the Evangelical Lutheran church, now located in Farmersville, Ohio. There has never been a death in the family. The parents celebrated their golden wedding June 27, 1899, when all of their children and grandchildren were present with the exception of William. The family is one of the best known and most highly respected in Preble county. Besides their own children, Mr. and Mrs. Kimmel reared his niece, Sarah Ellen Potterf, who was born March 29, 1859, and came to live with them at the age of six years. She is now the wife of Dr. B. F. Beane, of Eldorado.

Mr. Kimmel has always lived within three miles of his present home, and no man in the community is more highly respected or esteemed, having always been one of its leading citizens. He and his wife have traveled extensively, visiting the Centennial in 1876, the World's Fair in 1893, Washington, and different places in the west. He cast his first presidential vote for Zachary Taylor; later voted for Abraham Lincoln, and continued to support the Republican party until 1884, since which time he has been a Prohibitionist. He held the office of trustee of his township fourteen years, and was township treasurer for three years. Both he and his wife are active and prominent members of the Universalist church, and he is now serving as trustee and deacon of the church.

WILLIAM WATERS.

William Waters, a well known resident of Eaton, who for some time was the capable sheriff of Preble county, was born in Monroe township on the 14th of June, 1847. His father, William Waters, was born in Boone county, Kentucky, and the grandfather, James S. Waters, was a native of Virginia. The latter secured land in Kentucky through warrants given to Revolutionary soldiers, and after improving his farm he was forced to give it up. He theretore moved to Preble county about sixty-three years ago, becoming one of its earliest settlers. John Waters, the father of our subject, made farming his life work and is still living in Monroe township at the age of seventy-five. In his business affairs he has prospered, acquiring a comfortable competency. He wedded Mary Blackford, a daughter of Jeremiah K. Blackford, of Warren county, Ohio,

and in 1899 was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife. In their family were thirteen children, eight of whom are yet living, namely: Elizabeth; Thomas M., who resides at Eaton, where he is engaged in the cultivation and sale of flowers; Julia C., Elmer, Emma, and Ollie.

William Waters, whose name introduces this record, pursued his education in the common schools and almost as soon as old enough to reach the plow handles began work in the fields. In April, 1865, when only seventeen years of age, he joined the army and served for nine months, being stationed in Georgia, during a portion of the period of reconstruction. On being mustered out he returned to the home farm. For two years he was in business in Indiana, selling fruit trees, but during the greater part of his life he has been identified with agricultural interests in Preble county and is now the owner of eighty acres, which he rents. He also has considerable town property.

In his political views he is a stanch Republican and keeps well informed on the issues of the day. He was twice elected township trustee, serving for five years, when he resigned in order to enter upon the duties of sheriff, to which position he was elected in the fall of 1888, for a term of two years, and on the expiration of that time was re-elected and was filling the office of sheriff when Elmer Sharkey was arrested for killing his mother and when John Bell also committed a similar offence. He discharged his duties fearlessly and ably. Such officials are the bulwarks of a community, imparting a feeling of public safety to law abiding citizens and of fear to those who keep not within the pale of the law. Mr. Waters has also served as a school director for two terms,

and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend.

Socially our subject is connected with the Grand Army of the Republic and has served in a number of offices, including that of commander of the local post. He married Margaret J. Howell, a daughter of Arthur Howell, of New Jersey, the wedding being celebrated on the 7th of December, 1872. Their union has been blessed with three children: Clarence V., who is now engaged in the drug business in Eaton; Minnie Maud and Myrtle Mary. Mr. Waters has a very wide acquaintance in his county and is a popular citizen, winning friendship through his many sterling qualities.

JAMES MURRAY.

James Murray, one of the well known farmers of Preble county, Ohio, is a native of Washington township, this county, and was born February 28, 1843, a son of Mitchell and Lydia (Brasier) Murray. Of their large family of twelve children, six are now living, namely: Joseph, a farmer of Jefferson township, this county; Lemuel, a shoemaker of Darke county, Ohio; John, a farmer of Jefferson township, this county; James, whose name introduces this sketch; Henry, a farmer of Wayne county, Indiana, and Sarah, the wife of John F. Ervin, a contractor and builder of Eldorado, Ohio. The six that are deceased were David, Alfred, Amos, Leven T., Isabella and Julia.

Mitchell Murray, the father, was born in Sussex county, Delaware, in 1805, a son of John Murray, a prominent farmer of that place, where he lived and died. In his native county Mitchell was reared and married and settled down to farming there, as did his father before him. About 1835, however,

he became dissatisfied, and, thinking he could do better in the west, came to Ohio, Eaton his destination, the trip requiring several days. Arriving at Eaton, he had just money enough to buy an ax. Here he located and by day's work succeeded in providing for his family. In 1854 he removed to Darke county and began farming, as a renter, remaining there four years. At the end of that time he returned to Preble county and rented the farm which the subject of this sketch now owns, and during the following nine years he made enough money to buy a place of his own, and he again went to Darke county. There he purchased eighty acres of land, and resided on it until a year prior to his death, when, having lost his life partner, he left the farm and took up his home with a daughter in Eldorado, Ohio, where he spent his declining days. He died in February, 1881. His wife, a native also of Sussex county, Delaware, was born in 1810. Her father died when she was a child, and her mother, whose maiden name was Mary McCabe, came with Mr. Murray's family to Ohio, and spent the rest of her life in Preble county.

James Murray in his early youth acquired such education as he could get in the primitive schools of those pioneer days in Preble county, and at the early age of eleven years he was hired out to a farmer to work, for three dollars a month and his board. From that time forward hard work was one of the chief factors in his existence.

Reaching his majority, he enlisted, May 2, 1864, in Company F, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, and went to the front. There were then seven brothers in the service. He was sent to Kentucky, and from there to Maryland, and was in the battle at Cumberland. During

the four months of his service he proved himself a brave, true soldier, and at the expiration of his time of enlistment was honorably discharged.

Returning from the army he spent the winter at home, and in the spring rented a farm and began farming operations on his own account. The next year he farmed with his father, receiving a certain share of the crop. Then he engaged in the tile business in Eldorado.

In 1868 Mr. Murray was united in marriage with Miss Martha J. Mills, a native of Jefferson township, Preble county, Ohio, and a daughter of George and Elizabeth Mills. George Mills was a native of Ireland, and came from there with his parents to Ohio, settling in Clinton county and later in Preble county, Ohio. The spring following his marriage Mr. Murray purchased a two-fifths interest in the old Mills homestead, and the next two years he and his wife lived with her parents. At the end of that time they removed to a farm in Jefferson township, owned by Mrs. Murray, and on it they spent two years. After this Mr. Murray, in partnership with his brother John, bought eighty acres of land and a sawmill and engaged in the saw mill and lumber business, which they continued one year. The next year was spent on Mrs. Murray's farm. In the meantime Mr. Murray bought a farm of one hundred acres on the Whitewater, near New Paris, to which they moved and where they lived two years, removing thence to New Paris, where they spent the summer. Mr. Murray then, in 1875, purchased the interest of the heirs to the Mills homestead, one hundred and sixty acres of land, where he resided till 1884, when he purchased two hundred and ten acres, known as the old Edmond Kin-

caid farm, in Jefferson township. After living on this place four years, he made an exchange of property whereby he acquired two hundred and seventy-two acres, the farm upon which he now resides. He still retains the old Mills homestead, has one hundred acres adjoining it, making two hundred and sixty acres in one body, and his wife has one hundred and sixty acres in Jefferson township. Thus by years of toil and good management he has been constantly accumulating and to-day he has a financial standing with the leading men in the county. In connection with his farming he has made a specialty of the stock business, in which he has been very successful.

Mr. and Mrs. Murray are the parents of seven children, namely: Olive May, at home; Edwin O., with the Farmers' Bank, New Paris, Ohio; Charles A., a teacher in the public schools of Jefferson township; Elwood, farming with his father; Cora A., a teacher in the public schools of Preble county, and Ethel and Elbert, at home. Mr. Murray is a Republican and has for years figured in local politics, serving several times as delegate to county conventions. Few men, if any, in his locality, are better known or more respected than is James Murray.

BENJAMIN HUBBARD.

A member of the Preble county bar now residing at Eaton, Mr. Hubbard has won a distinguished position in connection with his chosen profession. He was born in Princeton, New Jersey, on the 16th of September, 1809. The family is of old Holland lineage, the grandfather of our subject, John Hubbard, having been born in the little country of dikes, whence he came to America in colonial days. At the time when the colo-

nies made the attempt to throw off the yoke of British oppression he enlisted in the American army, loyally bearing his part in the war which brought independence to the nation. His son, Benjamin Hubbard, Sr., the father of our subject, was a native of Princeton, New Jersey, and in 1811 emigrated westward, taking up his abode in Hamilton county, Ohio, whence he came to Preble county, in 1832. Here he located in Milford township, where he died in 1848, at the age of seventy-eight years. His wife was Mary McIntyre, a native of Pennsylvania, who died in Eaton, at the age of ninety-nine years and eleven months.

Mr. Hubbard, of this review, received but limited educational privileges. He learned the carriage-maker's trade in Cincinnati and followed that pursuit until 1840, during which time he devoted his leisure hours to reading law. He pursued his studies under the direction of Abner Haines, of Eaton, and was admitted to the bar in June, 1844. He has practiced for sixty years, and with the exception of two years passed in Greenville, he has always been a member of the Eaton bar. He is now the oldest practitioner in the county, but his mind is still strong and his knowledge of law is comprehensive.

In public affairs Mr. Hubbard has been a prominent, active and valued factor. He was the first secretary of what is now the Cincinnati & Richmond Railroad. He was also the mayor of Eaton, filling that important position during the period of the civil war. In 1853-4 he was a member of the state legislature of Ohio, and his influence has been marked in molding public opinion. His wise counsel and sound judgment have gained support to many measures that have largely contributed to the public

good, and at all times he has been known as a public spirited and progressive man whose worth is widely acknowledged.

On the 10th of June, 1830, Mr. Hubbard was united in marriage to Miss Minerva Morey, of Butler county, Ohio. They had ten children, only one of whom is still living, Albert Edgar, who is connected with the Farmers' and Citizens' Bank at Eaton. Mrs. Hubbard died October 24, 1872, but Mr. Hubbard is still living, at the ripe old age of ninety-one years, and receives the veneration and respect which should always be accorded one who has traveled far along life's journey and has left behind an honorable and commendable record.

REV. JOHN H. SPITLER.

Rev. John H. Spitler, a well known and successful farmer residing on section 20, Monroe township, Preble county, Ohio, was born in Montgomery county, this state, December 14, 1835. The first representative of the family in America was Jacob Spitler, who came from Germany, but back of him the family originally came from Switzerland. Jacob Spitler was the paternal great-grandfather of our subject. His paternal grandfather, John Spitler, was born in Virginia and came to Ohio when about twenty-one years of age. He was soon afterward married in Montgomery county, Ohio, where he spent the remainder of his life, dying there at the age of eighty-nine years. He entered land from the government and when he located there the county was principally inhabited by Indians, who were always on friendly terms with him, exchanging with him venison and other wild meats for corn and other grains. John Spitler was a generous, kind-hearted man, and respected and beloved by all who knew him, and in business

affairs was most successful. He was a man of strong mentality, and his descendants inherited his characteristics in many respects. It is worthy of note that seven of his grandsons have become skillful and successful physicians. He married Barbara Rohrer, a native of Maryland and of German descent. Joseph Spitler, the father of our subject, was born and reared in Clay township, Montgomery county, and continued to make his home there, engaged in agricultural pursuits, until called from this life at the age of seventy-six years. He married Barbara Limpert, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Henry Limpert, who also was born in Pennsylvania and was of German descent. He came to Montgomery county, Ohio, when his daughter Barbara was but three years of age. She died at the age of fifty-five years. She was the mother of ten children, three sons and seven daughters, one of whom died at the age of two years.

In this family our subject was the second child and second son. Reared in his native township, he obtained his education in a primitive log school house with slab benches and a stick and mud chimney. He remained at home assisting in the operation of the farm until twenty-five years of age, when he was married, in 1860, to Miss Emma Taylor, by whom he had one son, Elmer E., who died at the age of three months. The wife and mother died June 1, 1862, and in 1864 Mr. Spitler was again married, his second union being with Eliza Shurley, a native of Monroe township, Preble county, born on the farm where she now resides. Five children blessed this marriage: Mary L., now the wife of John F. Ward, who is engaged in agriculture in Monroe township; Anna B., the wife of Ira Wellbaum, a manufacturer of and dealer in

farm implements, of Brookville, Montgomery county; Hawley A. married Nettie B. Miller and is a farmer of Monroe township; one child, a little son, died in infancy unnamed, and C. Shurley, who died at the age of twenty years. He was a promising man, of good education, being graduated at the Richmond Business College.

Mr. Spitler now owns and operates a fine farm of one hundred and twenty-eight acres in Monroe township, Preble county, and the success that he has achieved in life is due to his own well-directed and energetic efforts. In 1864, during the dark days of the civil war, he joined "the boys" in blue, enlisting in Company K, One Hundred and Thirty-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, with which he served about five months. He was also a member of the home guards of Montgomery county two years, and held the rank of corporal. Later he enlisted in the United States army and held the rank of corporal until the close of the war. His regiment was a member of the Middle Division, Eighth Army Corps, and was under the command of Generals Sheridan and Wallace.

In 1860 Mr. Spitler commenced preaching as a United Brethren minister, and has done much service as a local preacher. He has devoted much of his time to the work of the church, and is now serving as trustee of the United Brethren church at Eldorado, Ohio. Since casting his first presidential vote for Lincoln in 1860 Mr. Spitler has been an ardent Republican. He has held several local offices in his township. Socially he is a member of Judy Shewman Post, No. 747. G. A. R., of Eldorado, and is now serving his ninth term as chaplain of the same. He has traveled extensively over the United States, visiting some sixteen of the states.

HON. PHILIP A. SAYLOR.

Hon. Philip A. Saylor has attained to a position of distinction in connection with the affairs of Preble county and is now ably serving as representative to the general assembly. His strong mentality, close study of the questions of the day and sound judgment well fitted him for leadership, and his course has been marked by patriotic devotion to the public good.

Mr. Saylor was born in Van Wert county, Ohio, on the 2d of January, 1871, and is a son of John W. and Lucinda (Shaffer) Saylor. His paternal grandfather, John D. Saylor, was a native of Pennsylvania, of German lineage, and became one of the early settlers of Preble county, Ohio, where he was soon known as a prominent contractor and builder. Many of the homes and the wooden bridges which he constructed are still in use and stand as monuments to his skill and enterprise. Not only was he well known in business circles but was also recognized as a leader in the Methodist Episcopal church, and took a very active part in establishing the cause of Methodism in this section of Ohio. His life, ever honorable and upright, commanded uniform respect. He died in the early '80s, at an advanced age, leaving to his family an untarnished name. The maternal grandparents of our subject were Philip and Elizabeth (Wescoe) Shaffer. He, too, was born in the Keystone state and was of German descent. At an early epoch in the pioneer history of Preble county he established a home within its borders and was actively identified with its agricultural interests for many years. He had a family of eleven children, ten of whom are still living, while nine are residents of Preble county. His honesty was proverbial, and throughout



P. W. Sawyer.

his long and active business career his word was as good as any bond ever solemnized by signature and seal. John W. Saylor, the father of our subject, was born in West Alexandria, Ohio, in 1831, here spent his boyhood days and obtained his education in the common schools. He apprenticed himself to learn the carpenter's trade when about seventeen years of age, and on the completion of his term he began contracting and building. He erected many of the district school-houses in Darke and Montgomery counties and also took contracts for many other buildings. He was well known for his excellent workmanship and his reliability in all trade transactions, and therefore won a liberal patronage. In 1856 he was united in marriage to Miss Lucinda Shaffer, who was born in Preble county, in 1842. After the breaking out of the civil war he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in the Twenty-second Ohio Infantry, in 1861. He became a member of Company E and with his command took part in the battles of Shiloh, Iuka, Corinth and many minor engagements. He served for three years and three months, and, always being found at his post of duty faithfully defending the starry banner and the cause it represented, he returned to his home with an honorable military record. He then resumed contracting and building. In 1867 he removed to Van Wert county, where he resided until 1872, when he returned to West Alexandria and was again identified with the building interests of the city until 1892. Since that time he has lived retired, in the enjoyment of the fruits of his former toil. His life has been crowned with a high degree of prosperity, and among his property interests are two valuable farms in Preble county. In politics he is a stalwart Democrat, and for

about eighteen years he served as assessor of Lanier township, a fact which well indicates his fidelity to duty. Socially he is connected with Lanier Lodge, No. 52, I. O. O. F., of West Alexandria. In his family were but two children, the elder being McClellan A., a farmer of Preble county.

The younger son, Philip A. Saylor, spent his boyhood days in his parent's home, pursuing his education in the West Alexandria high school, in which he was graduated in the spring of 1888. The following fall he entered the Ohio Wesleyan University, where he pursued a classical course until reaching the senior year. He then entered Buchtel College, at Akron, where through one term he pursued the studies of the classical course. During his college days he took a very active part in athletic matters, and for three years during his attendance at Wesleyan University he was "varsity pitcher" of the base ball nine. Well qualified by his superior educational privileges for professional life, he began teaching in 1891, and after leaving Buchtel College, in the spring of 1893, he resumed the duties of the school-room, his career as an educator covering a period of eight years, six years of which time was passed as the principal of the Lexington schools. For two years he was the superintendent of the Lanier township high school. He was a most successful educator, for he had the ability to impart clearly and readily to others the knowledge which he had acquired. He made his way through college by money obtained as a member of the base ball team, and by teaching, and the determination which enabled him to get his education in this way is a marked characteristic which will lead to a very successful career. In 1897 he began reading law under Senator Oscar Sheppard, of West Alexan-

dria, and in the fall of 1899 he abandoned the teacher's profession in order to give his attention more exclusively to his preparation for the bar. In September of that year he was chosen as the nominee on the Democratic ticket for the state legislature, and, notwithstanding the fact that his party has long been in the minority here, he was elected by a good majority, a fact which indicates his personal ability and the high degree of confidence reposed in his ability by his fellow men. In the house he manifested a patriotic spirit by his support of the various measures which he believed would prove of public benefit, and to all questions that came up for consideration he gave careful and earnest study, so that his advocacy of a measure is the result of an intelligent understanding of the situation it involved. In the fall of 1900 he entered the University of Cincinnati as a student in the law department, and is now completing his preparation for the bar. He was a member of the incorporated firm known as the Gem Canning Company, which is meeting with considerable success.

In August, 1899, Mr. Saylor was united in marriage to Miss Bertha Huggins, a daughter of Dr. Huggins, of West Alexandria. Their pleasant home is celebrated for its gracious hospitality, which is enjoyed by a large circle of friends. Socially Mr. Saylor is connected with King Hiram Lodge, No. 88, F. & A. M., and in the order he has filled all of the offices with the exception of that of master. A recognized leader in political circles, he has the qualities which will also make him a leader in his chosen profession. Gifted by nature with strong mentality, his concentration, determination and common sense will enable him to win a place among the representatives of his chosen call-

ing. In manner he is genial and courteous and his many admirable characteristics have made him very popular citizen.

R. D. HUGGINS, M. D.

Well known as a prominent citizen of West Alexandria, and is a most able representative of the medical fraternity, Dr. Huggins is deserving of representation in the history of Preble county. He is numbered among its native sons, his birth having occurred in Lexington, on the 6th of September, 1836, his parents being James and Nancy (Clayton) Huggins. His father was born in Pennsylvania, on the 13th of April, 1797, and was reared to manhood in the Keystone state, there learning the trade of a carpenter and builder. After his marriage he engaged in contracting and building for a short time in Pennsylvania, but subsequently removed westward, locating in Cincinnati, where he spent several years. He also resided in Indiana for some time, and about 1834 took up his abode in Lexington, Preble county, where he continued to dwell until 1843. He then took up his residence in West Alexandria, where he passed his remaining days, departing this life in 1885, at the ripe old age of eighty-eight years. He was long an active and consistent member of the Methodist church, and was one of the leading representatives of the Masonic fraternity of West Alexandria, where he served as the senior warden for years. He found opportunities to exemplify the helpful spirit of the craft, and was accounted a leading Mason. His political support was given the Whig party until its dissolution, when he joined the ranks of the Republican

party. His wife, who was born February 22, 1797, in Pennsylvania, was of Scotch descent and died in 1878. They became the parents of six children, of whom three are yet living, namely: Maria, Lydia and the subject of this sketch.

Dr. Huggins spent his youth amid the refining influence of a good home and in the common schools acquired his elementary education, which was supplemented by a course of study in the Oxford College. Determining to adopt the medical profession as his life work, in 1854, he began reading medicine under the direction of Dr. R. P. Nisbet, of West Alexandria, and in 1858 matriculated in the Cincinnati College of Medicine and Surgery, in which institution he was graduated in the spring of 1859, on the completion of a thorough course. Returning to West Alexandria, he then opened an office and began practice. From the beginning his patronage increased as he demonstrated his ability to successfully handle difficult cases. The years passed and he maintained his place among the foremost physicians of this section of the state until 1898, when he retired to private life.

On the 25th of March, 1866, the Doctor was united in marriage to Miss Caroline Hoke, a native of northern Ohio and a most estimable lady, whose death in November, 1892, was mourned by a large circle of friends and acquaintances as well as by her immediate family. They had two children: William, who for the past thirteen years has been a druggist of New York city; and Bertha, the wife of Hon. P. A. Saylor, of West Alexandria. In his political views the Doctor has ever been a stanch supporter of the Republican principles and in the '80s he served for four years as the county coroner, elected on the Republican ticket. So-

cially he is connected with King Hiram Lodge, No. 88, F. & A. M., of West Alexandria, and of Lanier Lodge, I. O. O. F. As a physician and as a man and citizen Dr. Huggins takes high rank, his prominence being well merited on account of his sterling worth.

ELI CONGER.

Eli Conger, a retired farmer living in Eaton, was born in Dixon township, Preble county, on the 20th of December, 1819. The family is probably of Irish lineage, and it is thought that John Conger, the grandfather, was born on the Emerald Isle. He became a farmer of North Carolina and owned a number of slaves, but becoming convinced that such a practice was wrong he freed his slaves prior to the war. His son, Josiah Conger, the father of our subject, was born in North Carolina, and in the year 1806 emigrated westward, taking up his abode in Dixon township, Preble county, where he entered one hundred and sixty acres of land from the government. He was one of the pioneer settlers of the community and was an active factor in the early progress and upbuilding of the county. He had received a liberal education and at intervals engaged in teaching school. He also labored earnestly and continuously in the ministry, preaching for fourteen years in Preble county and in Wayne and Union counties, of Indiana. He preached the dedicatory sermon for the first Christian church ever built in Eaton, and his labors in behalf of Christianity were far-reaching in their beneficent influence. Early in life he gave his political support to the Democratic party and later joined the Whig party. In business he was quite successful, becoming the

owner of a valuable property. He married Catherine Runyon, a daughter of Barfoot Runyon, who was of German descent. Mr. Conger died in 1846, and his wife passed away in 1848. They were the parents of eleven children, six sons and five daughters, but only three are now living: Moses, who resides in Sugar Valley, and has reached the age of ninety-three years; Evelina, the widow of Jacob Marshall and a resident of Greenville, Ohio; and Eli, of this review. On both the paternal and maternal sides our subject is descended from good old Revolutionary stock, for his grandfathers, John Conger and John Runyon, were both valiant heroes in the American army during the war for independence.

Eli Conger, whose name introduces this review, received a good practical education in the common schools and began work on the farm at an early age. He was married when only nineteen, the lady of his choice being Lucinda McWhinney, a daughter of William McWhinney, of Tennessee. The wedding took place November 1, 1838, and through almost a half century of happy married life she was to her husband a faithful companion and helpmate. They had three children, of whom two are living: Carrie, now the wife of Colonel A. L. Harris, of Eaton; and James H., also of this city. In early life the parents united with the Christian church and Mrs. Conger was an active worker in its interests, doing all in her power to promote its welfare. She reared her children in that faith, teaching them both by precept and example. Her death occurred October 3, 1887, and her loss was mourned throughout the entire community, for she had many warm friends.

The year after his marriage Mr. Conger was elected trustee of his township and held

that office for nine years. At the age of twenty he was elected justice of the peace and served in that capacity for twelve years. He also served as county commissioner from 1872 until 1878. With the exception of the time he has given to official duties he has followed farming and auctioneering, and, although he is now living retired he is still the owner of two hundred and forty acres of valuable land in Preble county, which he rents. In all his business dealings he was honorable and straightforward, winning the confidence and good will of those with whom he was associated. For a half century he has been a member of the Christian church, has held all of its offices, and has been most faithful to its teachings. He is one of the honored and respected pioneer residents of the county and well deserves mention in this volume.

WILLIAM C. SINGER.

A well known farmer of Twin township, William Collins Singer, was born in Preble county, Ohio, October 8, 1847, and is a son of Henry and Elizabeth Jane (Needham) Singer. His father was born in Harrison township, Preble county, on the 5th of August, 1820, and was a son of Joseph and Elizabeth (Rape) Singer. The grandfather was also a native of Ohio, having been born in Muskingum county, and his father, Joseph Singer, came with his wife to America soon after their marriage. They had no capital with which to pay their passage, and, as was the custom in those days, they were sold to one who would pay for the trip over. Thus they entered the service of a Mr. McCarty, for whom they had to work a given time in order to compensate him for the passage money. When they had fully met

their obligation they came to Ohio, locating in Muskingum county, in the vicinity of Oldtown. It will thus be seen that the Singer family is one of the honored pioneer families of the state. The grandfather of our subject was reared near its borders and after attaining his majority he came to Preble county, entering a half section of land from the government in Harrison township. The townsite of Lewisburg now covers a portion of his old homestead. He took up his abode thereon in 1802 and continued the cultivation of his land until his death, which occurred in 1841, when he was in his sixty-eighth year. He was one of the sturdy and reliable early settlers of the community who endured hardships and trials in founding a home on the frontier. He was thus active in laying the foundation for the present prosperity and progress of Preble county and his name deserves a place upon the pages of this history. During the war of 1812 he responded to the call for troops and was a loyal member of the American army. He married Elizabeth Rape and they became the parents of thirteen children, five of whom are yet living, namely: Henry; Jane, the wife of Monroe Hollinger, of Marion, Indiana; Solomon, a farmer of Harrison township; Lewis, a farmer of Winthrop, Iowa, and Isabelle, the wife of Dr. J. Barnett, of North Manchester, Indiana.

Henry Singer, the father of our subject, was reared on the old family homestead and acquired his education in the subscription schools common at that day. The father died just before the son attained his majority and he and an older brother continued upon the home farm, cultivating the land and performing the other work necessary to the successful conduct of the place. On the 13th of September, 1846, Henry Singer

wedded Miss Elizabeth J. Needham, a native of Guilford county, North Carolina, and a daughter of Ivy and Sarah (Henderson) Needham. The grandmother Needham was a daughter of James Henderson, who was of Scotch descent. His wife, Sarah Henderson, was a daughter of Isaac Peters, who came to America from England during childhood. The great-grandmother bore the name of Willis. Jesse Needham was born in North Carolina and came to Ohio in an early day, locating on Twin creek, in Lanier township, Preble county. Later he removed to Flat Rock, Indiana, where he resided until his death. He was a tailor by trade and followed that pursuit for some years, but afterward engaged in farming. The grandfather of our subject had a brother, James Needham, who was a noted minister and preached his last sermon only a few months before his death, and he lacked one month of being one hundred years of age at the time of his death. For many years he was a presiding elder in the Methodist church. He devoted more than seventy-five years of his life to the work of the ministry and accomplished great good through an active career that extended over three-quarters of a century. Mrs. Singer's father was a native of Randolph county, and her mother of Guilford county, North Carolina. They came to Preble county when she was only six years of age. The paternal grandfather of Mrs. Singer was a cabinet maker in early life, but on emigrating to Ohio located on a farm near Winchester, in Lanier township, Preble county. In 1845, however, he removed to Piqua and became well known as a horticulturist. After the death of his wife in 1877 he removed to Dayton, Ohio, where he lived retired until his death in 1885.

After his marriage Henry Singer con-

tinued upon the old homestead with his brother for eleven years and then sold his interest in the farm to his brother, purchasing one hundred and five acres of land in Monroe township. After carrying on farming there for five years he exchanged the property for his present farm of one hundred and thirty-one acres, upon which he has since resided. His efforts have been attended with success and he is one of the most highly esteemed farmers of the county. He holds membership in the United Brethren church and in politics was formerly a Whig but joined the Republican party on its organization and has since been one of its stalwart advocates. His wife has been a member of the Methodist church since her thirteenth year and has been connected with the congregation at Lewisburg for the past fifty-six years. She is an earnest Christian woman and enjoys the high regard of all with whom she has been associated.

William Collins Singer spent his boyhood days in his parents' home and to the common schools he is indebted for the educational privileges which he enjoyed. At the age of twenty he went to Dayton, where he worked for an uncle at gardening for a year. On the expiration of that period he rented land and began gardening on his own account, making a specialty of the raising of potatoes and melons. During the summer season he bought and shipped melons and fruits on a very extensive scale, carrying on a large business, but after ten years spent at Dayton he removed to Jackson county, Indiana, passing the succeeding decade at Brownstown and Seymour in the same business. For two seasons he also represented the Madison Packing Company, buying fruit throughout southern Illinois for that firm. In February, 1883, he returned home and

took charge of his father's farm, and has since devoted his energies to agricultural pursuits.

On the 3d of January, 1896, Mr. Singer was united in marriage to Miss Florence Brown, a native of Preble county and a daughter of Jacob Brown, who was one of the early teachers of this county and later a successful business man of Lewisburg. Mr. Singer is a member of Libanus Lodge, No. 88, F. & A. M. He gives his political support to the Republican party and is a member of the Methodist Episcopal church. He possesses excellent business and executive ability and in the conduct of his affairs is winning a creditable success.

FRANK O. DUNLAP.

Among the farmers of Dixon township whose enterprising efforts have won him success is Frank O. Dunlap, whose birth occurred in Lanier township, on the 30th of May, 1846. His father, Abner Dunlap, was a native of Frederick county, Virginia, and the grandfather was born on the Emerald Isle. On crossing the Atlantic to the new world, he took up his abode in Virginia, where he spent his remaining days. Abner Dunlap removed to Ohio, locating in Lanier township, Preble county, in 1830. For forty years he was actively and successfully engaged in farming, but in 1870 removed to Eaton and became the president of the Farmers & Citizens' Bank in that place, holding the position for eight years. By trade he was a cooper and in his business affairs was very successful, steadily working his way upward by determined purpose and unfaltering energy. He was an excellent financier and a man of keen discernment, certainly meriting the proud American title of

a self-made man. He voted with the Democratic party and was a man of much influence in political circles. He contributed most liberally to the support of the church, aided in the erection of the house of worship of the Christ church, in Eaton, and served as one of its trustees. His judgment was rarely at fault and he was a prominent and public spirited man who gave his aid and encouragement to all movements which he believed would prove of public benefit. He died September 30, 1897, respected by all who knew him. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Elizabeth Sample and was a daughter of Samuel Sample, of Virginia, died in 1887. They had nine children, of whom four are living, namely: Melissa, wife of Perry Alexander, of Eaton; Warren, of Eaton; Alice, wife of H. M. Markley, and Frank O.

The last named pursued his education in the common schools, was reared to farm life and in 1885 purchased eighty acres of land and began farming on his own account. As his financial resources increased, he has added to his property and is now the owner of five hundred and seventeen acres of valuable land upon which he successfully carries on general farming. From 1871 until 1874 he was in the furniture and undertaking business in Eaton, but with this exception he has always given his attention to the tilling of the soil and has found it a profitable source of income.

Mr. Dunlap has been twice married. On the 5th of December, 1872, he married Miss Nettie Johnson, of West Alexandria, who died December 2, 1887. They had three children, Charles A., Samuel J. and Mary E. On the 2d of February, 1890, Mr. Dunlap was married to Mrs. Minnie (Goldsmith) Taylor, a widow; having one child,

Glenn M. Taylor. By the second marriage of our subject there are four children: Stella, Lester L., Leila and Joseph H. The family attend church at Concord and Mr. Dunlap contributes liberally to its support and encourages all movements and measures that are calculated to secure advancement along material, social, moral and educational lines. He is known as one of the leading farmers and one of the reliable business men of Preble county, and enjoys the high regard of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

WERTER D. SINGER.

Among the successful and influential farmers of Preble county is the subject of this review, whose fine homestead is located on section 22, Twin township, and he is a worthy scion of the sturdy pioneer stock which had so important an influence in laying broad and deep the foundations of the county's prosperity. It is thus signally appropriate that the family should find distinct representation in this work, and on other pages will be found detailed mention of the father of our subject, with complete genealogical records and other pertinent data.

Werter Davis Singer, the immediate subject of this review, is a native son of Preble county, having been born in Harrison township, on the 18th of October, 1849, the son of Henry and Elizabeth (Needham) Singer, who were the parents of six children, of whom four survive, namely: William Collins, of Twin township, this county, where he is engaged in agricultural pursuits; Werter D., the immediate subject of this sketch; Mary E., the wife of Franklin Beam, a farmer of Twin township; and Francis H.,

a farmer and dairyman of Harrison township. The long identification of the family name with the annals of Preble county may be inferred when it is stated that the father of our subject is likewise a native of Harrison township, where he was born on the 5th of August, 1820. Here he was reared to maturity, growing up under the invigorating discipline of the farm, and here he married and has passed his long and useful life. He began farming on the old homestead after his marriage, later selling his interest to his brother and removing to a farm west of Lewisburg, where he resided until 1859, when he became a resident of Brennersville, this county, where he still makes his home, secure in the respect and esteem of the community.

Werter D. Singer grew to maturity at the farm home of his parents, receiving his educational discipline in the common schools. On the 18th of June, 1876, he was united in marriage to Miss Sarah C. Bean, a native of Twin township, this county, where she was born on the place which is now her home, the daughter of Samuel and Sarah (Mills) Bean. Her father was born in Pennsylvania, the date of his nativity being 1809. When he was a boy of nine years he accompanied his parents on their removal from the old Keystone state to the wilds of Preble county, his father, Henry Bean, settling on the farm now occupied by our subject and becoming one of the honored pioneers of the county. The land was purchased from the government, and here the father and grandfather of Mrs. Singer lived and died, the former having been a resident of the town of West Alexandria for three years.

After his marriage our subject continued to reside in Harrison township for one year, after which he rented a farm in Twin town-

ship for a year, then removing to the home farm of his father-in-law, renting the place for twelve years and working ceaselessly and with excellent discrimination, he was signally successful in his efforts and was able to effect the purchase of the homestead in 1891, and here he has one of the finest farm homes in the county, being recognized as one of the progressive and influential farmers of this section of the state and being held in the highest estimation in the community. He has recently remodeled his residence, building an addition to the same and making its appointments modern throughout. The home is one of attractive order and here a genial hospitality is dispensed to the large circle of friends. In politics our subject supports the Republican party, but has never been an aspirant for public office, preferring to devote his attention to his private interests.

To Mr. and Mrs. Singer six children have been born, namely: Vermont D., a successful farmer, married Ova Ryder and they have one child, Ralph R.; Nellie G., deceased; Ethel L., deceased; Charles H. B., at home; Josie L., at home; and Chester H., deceased.

DAVID E. HENDRICKS.

David English Hendricks, the father of General George D. Hendricks, of whom extended mention follows this sketch, was born in Middletown Point, Monmouth county, New Jersey, June 15, 1765. His death occurred in Eaton, Ohio, September 8, 1845. His father, grandfather and others of the family emigrated to America from Holland early in the eighteenth century. The family of which David E. was a member, settled in New Jersey and our subject grew to man-

hood in that state. Making his way to Pittsburgh, we find him next participating in General Wayne's expedition in the northwest against the Indians. This military service brought him into southwestern Ohio, and after the treaty of Greenville, in 1795, he married Rosanna Stackhouse, lived for a time at Milliken's Bend, Butler county; later at Camden, Preble county, and in 1806 he became the first permanent settler of the town of Eaton, the second house of which place was built by him. He served with distinction in the war of 1812, raising a company for that struggle and being made its captain. After the close of his service in this, our second war with Great Britain, the Captain spent the remainder of his life quietly in business pursuits, continuing for the most part his residence in Eaton.

GEORGE D. HENDRICKS.

Among the notables who were born, lived and died in this county few, if any, have been so universally known to our population, in his day and generation, and so generally acquainted with the inhabitants, as was General George D. Hendricks. His paternal ancestors were Dutch, who came from Holland prior to our Revolutionary war, settling in New Jersey, while it was a British colony. His father, Captain David E. Hendricks, was born there in 1765, and served as a soldier in the western Indian wars with Harmer, St. Clair and Wayne. After the treaty of Greenville, in 1795, he married Rosanna Stackhouse and lived for a time at Milliken's Bend in Butler county, from which place he moved to Camden, where George was born, on the 3rd day of October, 1805. It is claimed that the subject of this sketch was the first white male child born in the county. While he was still an in-

fant in arms, the family moved to Eaton, then just laid out by William Bruce. Captain Hendricks built the second house on the town plat, on West Main street, and kept the first tavern of the town. Very early in life young George manifested a love for books and a desire for learning, making such progress in school that in his 'teens he was found to have acquired education enough to fit him for teaching in the schools of the country. In his early manhood he taught not only the common "three-R" schools, but had also acquired knowledge of English grammar, lectured upon the sciences, and gave writing lessons all over the country, earning many an honest penny in this way. He was not long in drifting into politics, and from his natural adaptation, genial nature and popularity became a leader among men. Soon we had in our local politics what was known as the "Hendricks' party" pitted against the "Hawkins' party" that dominated our county. This contest was more a matter of personality than any difference of principles. The tact and management of the leader of the new party soon gave him the ascendancy over the old. His debut into public life was as a candidate for auditor, to which position he was elected by an overwhelming majority of votes. He was subsequently elected to the lower branch of the general assembly, to the state senate and the sheriffalty, besides divers minor offices, in all of which he gave general satisfaction.

For a time he owned, edited and published the Eaton Register, and by his acquaintance and influence increased its subscriptions considerably. He inaugurated a system of free delivery by a private post, boys distributing the papers on horseback over the county. Being of military descent, he seemed to inherit a taste for military

life, and held sundry offices, from the minor ones to that of brigadier-general of militia. When the Texas people were struggling against Mexico for independence, the subject of our sketch, fired with military ardor, left his home and hied away to join the Texan army as a private soldier. He did gallant service under the Lone Star flag beside General Sam Houston, and Albert Sidney Johnston, of Confederate fame, who fell at the battle of Shiloh. The military experience in Texas fitted him for being of great assistance in the time of the civil war, recruiting the ranks and giving instructions to raw soldiers in their duties.

After the restoration of the Union he engaged in a land agency in the west for some years, and when he began to age returned to the place of his nativity to spend the closing years of a long, active life, amid the scenes of his childhood and among the friends of his young manhood. The last few years of a long, well-spent life in varied lines of usefulness found him stricken with severe physical ailments that finally impaired his mind and he lingered and suffered for a long time, being a great care to his faithful and loving daughters that were with him like ministering angels to the end, which came on the 4th of May, 1900, at the advanced age of almost ninety-five years. His remains were laid in the beautiful Mound Cemetery that he had seen grow from a single grave to a city of the dead with thousands of population. He was laid beside his wife, who was buried nearly twelve years before, being borne to his last resting place by his grandsons as pall bearers.

This man of mark and many noble deeds was an eccentric character, the like of whom will not be seen again. He was a person of infinite humor who like the Shakespearean

character set many a crowd in a roar of laughter, never omitting a chance to practice a joke or have a bit of fun. He knew no fear and it could well be said of him, "He was brave as a lion and as tender as a woman." His genial and sympathetic nature made him a general favorite, and pre-eminently so among the young. In the sense that age is a matter of feeling rather than of years, Mr. Hendricks was young until late in life. He was an attendant at all manner of gatherings in all parts of the county, always welcome, and the hero in work or play. At reunions, log-rollings, house-raisings, wood-choppings, corn-huskings, apple-parings, quiltings, wool-pickings and weddings he was ever ready to take a hand, and, whether it was work or fun and frolic, he was well to the front. He could jump, wrestle or sprint with the best. Though small and having a crippled arm, few men were ever able to put him on his back, leap further or outrun him. Both in physical and mental activity, there were few that equaled him. His heart was large and his hand open to help those in need, none of whom were turned away empty when he could give. According to his means he favored as many of his fellows as any one in the county. He did not always wait, but often sought out objects of charity. No doubt he had faults, as none are perfect, but his manifold acts of charity and loving kindness were enough to hide many. The good that men do should live after them, and the evil be buried with their dust. So let it be with this benevolent man!

A. H. STEPHENS, M. D.

Dr. Stephens was for many years a prominent medical practitioner of Eaton and died in this city July 2, 1891, at the age of

seventy-three years, respected by all who knew him. He was a native of this locality and was the second white child born in the county. His father, Isaac Stephens, was a native of Tennessee and came to this town at a very early day, when Indians were still numerous in western Ohio. He was prominently connected with the pioneer development of the county, took an active part in opening up the way for civilization and was the first postmaster and justice of the peace in Eaton. He followed farming and also shipped produce on flatboats down the Ohio and Mississippi rivers to New Orleans. In all matters of public concern he took a deep interest and was a recognized leader of public thought and movement. For many years he served as recorder, and, no matter what political party was in power, his influence was very marked.

Dr. Stephens was reared in a pioneer home and was familiar with the history of the early development and progress of Preble county. He pursued his preliminary education in the common schools and afterward pursued his studies at Oxford. He prepared for his professional career as a student in the Cincinnati Medical College, in which institution he was graduated. After traveling in Darke county for a time, he located in Eaton, where he engaged in practice until 1849. He then went to Camden, Preble county, to aid in relieving the sufferers from the awful cholera epidemic and continued his residence in that city until the war. After the inauguration of hostilities between the north and the south, he offered his services to the government and in September, 1861, was commissioned a surgeon in the Sixth Ohio Infantry, known as the Guthrie Greys, of Mexican fame. He participated in many battles and had charge of

large stores. He was also in charge of hospitals at different times, and during some portions of the war his wife was with him and assisted in caring for the sick and wounded.

Upon receiving an honorable discharge, Dr. Stephens returned to Preble county and was numbered among its most able, skillful and successful medical practitioners until his death. He was an active member of the County Medical Society and was an honorary member of the different medical organizations. In 1881 he was appointed to take charge of the Soldiers' Home and continued in that position for four years. From the time of the war until his death he served as county coroner, proving a faithful officer. One of the older members of the medical fraternity in Preble county; he was one of the most prominent and at all times he was a student and was not only a close follower of advance but was also a leader in investigation and carried his research into new and untried fields.

On the 12th of September, 1850, Dr. Stephens was united in marriage to Miss Ann G. Hutchins, a daughter of George E. Hutchins. Her father was a native of Monmouth, New Jersey, and belonged to an old Quaker family. His father became one of the early settlers of Butler county, Ohio. Mrs. Stephens' father purchased land in Preble county, but she was born in Butler county. She is a consistent member of the Society of Friends, has been active in charitable work and is a leading member of the Woman's Relief Corps. She also belongs to the Methodist Episcopal Home Missionary Society and has taken a leading part in its work. Having passed the allotted age of three score years and ten, Dr. Stephens' professional career was as long as well as an

active, useful and honorable one. Throughout the county he was held in the highest regard, and his worth as a man, a citizen and a physician was widely recognized.

ALEXANDER BARR.

This representative farmer and progressive citizen of Orangeburg now owns and manages a well improved and valuable farm on section 34, Jefferson township, Preble county, Ohio. He was born in that township, December 1, 1832, and belongs to two of the old and honored families of the county, both of Scotch descent. His father, Christopher C. Barr, was a native of Pennsylvania and a son of Alexander Barr, who was born in Scotland and on his emigration to America, located first in Pennsylvania, whence he removed to Warren county, Ohio, and in 1813 to Preble county. He was a well educated man for his day and taught the first district school in Jefferson township, where he made his home until called to his final rest at the age of fifty-five years.

The father of our subject was quite young, when, in 1813, he accompanied his parents on their removal to this county. In Jefferson township he married Jane P. Johnson, a native of the county and a daughter of Gavin Johnson, who was born in Pennsylvania and took up his residence here in the spring of 1813, his home being in the same school district of Jefferson township where our subject's paternal grandfather settled. Mr. Johnson was the first to locate there and was the founder of Orangeburg, which village he laid out. He was a farmer by occupation and a hard working man, who died at about the age of fifty-six years. After his marriage Christopher C. Barr continued to make his home in Jeffer-

son township, until his death, which occurred in 1835, when only twenty-eight years of age. In his family were only two children, the daughter being Nancy Eliza, who died many years ago.

Our subject is the only son and only representative of the Barr family living. In his native township he was reared and educated, and on reaching the age of twenty years purchased the old homestead, which he successfully operated until 1876, when he bought his present farm, known as the Jacob Wisenbarger farm, and here he has since resided. He now owns two hundred and twenty-seven acres of land under a high state of cultivation and well improved, and in connection with farming he is engaged in the manufacture of brooms, to which he has devoted a part of his time for thirty-five years. In both undertakings he has been successful.

On the 25th of October, 1859, Mr. Barr was united in marriage with Miss Achsah Curry, who was also born in Jefferson township, and is a representative of one of the pioneer families of the county, being a daughter of John and Nancy Ann (Brinley) Curry, who came here from New Jersey about 1820. Our subject and his wife have nine children, five sons and four daughters, namely: Alice J., the wife of William D. Benner, of Jackson township, Preble county; John C. and Clarence P., both at home; Myrtle L., the wife of William Ervin, of Eldorado; Frank A., who is with the Adams Express Company, at Chicago; Mary A., the wife of Herbert Harshman; William A., who is clerking for Marshall Field, of Chicago; Pearl M., a graduate of the high school of New Paris, and Bruce O., at home.

In 1853, when a young man, Mr. Barr left home and during the following six years

traveled extensively, but at the end of that time returned to his native county, with whose interests he has since been identified. He was instrumental in getting the national pike through the county, which was at first known as the Orangeburg & State Line Pike, and has taken an active interest in all enterprises calculated to prove of public benefit. He was a school director twenty-three years, and clerk of the district most of that time. In his political affiliations he is a Democrat, and in religious belief is a Presbyterian.

JACOB STERZENBACH.

For half a century Jacob Sterzenbach has resided upon his present fine farm in Somers township, two and a half miles east of Camden. He was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, December 9, 1829, and was brought to Somers township in 1831, about sixty-nine years ago. The family is of German lineage. His father, George C. Sterzenbach, was born in Bavaria, on the 12th of December, 1796, and in 1821 came from South America to the United States, locating in Philadelphia. He left his home in Germany when sixteen years of age and traveled throughout the fatherland, working at his trade of coopering, and when about twenty years of age he became a member of the German army and was taken to South America, for the country anticipated war there. Not wishing, however, to remain in the army, he left without asking permission and took passage on board Commodore Perry's vessel. Thus they were brought to Philadelphia, where Mr. Sterzenbach arrived about 1820, without means, having spent all he had in getting away from the war-ship in southern waters.

He was married about 1827 to Eliza

Heller, a native of Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, born in 1807. They located in Somerville, Butler county, Ohio, in 1831, making the journey from Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, with a horse and jolt wagon. They journeyed westward with a party, bringing with them some bedding and a few hundred dollars. The latter was invested in the purchase of a home in Somerville, where the father engaged in coopering, manufacturing barrels and other things along that line. He built up a good business, his trade reaching extensive proportions. He furnished employment to eight hands and the seventeen years which he spent in Somerville was a prosperous era in his life. In 1848 he came to Preble county and purchased the farm adjoining that upon which our subject now resides. He thus became the owner of seventy-five acres, for which he paid seventeen hundred dollars. Upon the place was a good hewed-log house. He also paid thirteen hundred dollars for eighty acres of land, and upon that farm was also a hewed log-house. In his family were ten children—three sons and seven daughters—and, with the exception of our subject all were born in Somerville. The other children were: Susan, who died at the age of seventeen years; Caroline, who became the wife of George Haywood and died in 1895, at the age of sixty-two years, leaving five children; Franklin, who died in early childhood; Catherine, who died when seven years of age; Christian, who also died in childhood; Elizabeth, the widow of Alexander Wood, of Madison county, Indiana; Charlotte, who died in early womanhood; and George, who was in the civil war, enlisting first in Illinois and afterward with a company from Preble county, Ohio. He was married but had no children. The fa-

ther of these children died in August, 1864, and the mother passed away February 28, 1890, at the age of eighty-three years.

Mr. Sterzenbach, whose name introduces this review, received but limited school privileges, for during his boyhood he began work at the cooper's trade in his father's shop, his time being largely given to that pursuit. He was married April 24, 1850, to Rexel Frederika Houk, who was born May 17, 1829, in Stuttgart, Germany, a daughter of Joseph and Caroline (Weinner) Houk, who became residents of Pennsylvania about 1830, and in 1832 took up their residence in Somerville, Ohio. They had six children, but only three grew to mature years. Mrs. Sterzenbach has one sister, Mrs. Sarah Earhart, who is living in Eaton. Our subject and his wife have lost two children, an infant son and Willie, who died at the age of three years. The living are: Caroline, the wife of Adrian Welter, a farmer of this neighborhood, by whom she has two children; Samuel E., of Camden, is married and has three children; Margaret E., the wife of Irwin Roody, of Eaton, by whom she has one son, and Mary Irene, a bright and intelligent young lady, at home.

Mr. Sterzenbach is a quiet, unassuming man who devotes his energies to farming. He has followed the even tenor of his way as the years have passed by, his attention being given to the raising of stock and grain. He keeps the soil in good condition by the rotation of crops, which are planted in the following order: clover, corn and wheat. He feeds all his fodder to his stock and cuts his cornstalks fine, thereby causing the least possible waste. His large barn is one of the solid old buildings of the county, being constructed of heavy hewed timbers. It also has a basement which furnishes good shelter

for his stock. In his social relations Mr. Sterzenbach is an Odd Fellow and in politics is a Democrat where national issues are concerned, but at local elections, where no national issue is involved, he frequently votes independently. He served as township trustee from 1872 until 1891 and was the first Democrat ever elected to that position in this Republican district, a fact which indicates his personal popularity and the high regard in which he is held by his fellow townsmen, as well as the trust which they repose in him.

SAMUEL HAWKINS.

Colonel Samuel Hawkins, one of the foremost pioneers of Preble county, was born in Botetourt county, Virginia, in the year 1762, and at the age of sixteen years enlisted in the colonial army and continued his services in the struggle for independence until the close of the Revolutionary war. He married a Miss Washington, a sister of a companion-in-arms, and without returning to his home joined a company of emigrants and went to the territory of Kentucky, settling in Bourbon county. Here he bore the part of a hardy pioneer and was prominent and active in the campaigns against the Indians in Kentucky and Ohio. Soon after Wayne's treaty was made, Colonel Hawkins removed to Ohio and settled on the Miami river in Butler county. In 1799 he removed to Montgomery county and thence to Eaton in 1806. In Eaton he built a tavern and was its proprietor until the war of 1812 came on, and in response to a call for volunteers Colonel Hawkins again gave up the duties of civil life and engaged in the conflict with the Indians on the frontier. The following is quoted from history:

"After the surrender of Detroit, the Indians, under Tecumseh besieged Forts Wayne and Harrison, and an express being sent to General Harrison, informing him of the danger that menaced these posts, he called for volunteers to join him on his way to relieve the siege. On the 8th of September he was joined by Colonel R. M. Johnson with two hundred men from Kentucky, and on the 9th at the Shawnee crossing of the St. Mary's river, was joined by Colonels Hawkins and Adams with eight hundred men from Ohio. From this point they made their way as fast as possible toward the unprotected forts. Colonel Hawkins was in advance, and when he had reached a creek about nine miles from their destination he called a halt for the purpose of feeding and watering the horses. Just as he was stooping to pour out some oats for the fine animal which he rode, the head of the Kentucky battalion arrived in view, and a soldier in the front ranks, unaware that the other troops had halted, catching sight of the Colonel through the brush, supposed him to be an Indian, and fired upon him. The rifle ball was true to its mark: it struck Colonel Hawkins upon the right shoulder and inflicted a terrible wound, from the effects of which he died two years afterward (1814), at the house of his second son, John J. Hawkins. His wife's death occurred about a year before the Colonel's. And so at an early day passed away this pair of brave, true pioneers."

JOSEPH C. HAWKINS.

Joseph C. Hawkins was born in the year 1784, in Bourbon county, Kentucky. Of his father, Colonel Samuel Hawkins, extended mention is made in the above sketch.

Our subject came to Ohio with his father's family. He married near Germantown, Montgomery county, Ohio, and in the year 1806 came to Eaton, where his eldest child, who became Mrs. Mary Gray, was born the same year, one of the earliest births in the town of Eaton. Mr. Hawkins' wife, *nee* Isabella Pogue, died about the year 1820.

Joseph C. Hawkins was for many years one of Preble county's best known and most prominent citizens. He held several positions of honor and trust, and was universally respected by a wide circle of acquaintances. He lived to the age of sixty-five years. During the war of 1812 he was made the captain of a company of Preble county militia called out to defend the frontier against depredations of the Indian allies of Great Britain.

In 1815 Captain Hawkins was elected to the house of representatives, and held the position of representative until 1819, when he was elected county clerk, and this office he filled until 1833. Mr. Hawkins was an ardent Whig and was appointed by the elder Harrison administration register in the land office at Fairfield, Iowa. He died in Eaton, March 12, 1849.

JOSEPH SEVIER HAWKINS.

The subject of this sketch was a native of Eaton, born October 24, 1812. His father was Captain Joseph C. Hawkins, and his grandfather was Colonel Samuel Hawkins. Sevier Hawkins, as our subject was universally called and known, received a common-school education, which was supplemented by a course in the Miami University, at Oxford. At this institution he did not graduate, for he was suspended by the faculty for some youthful error. For a short time thereafter

he was employed in the wholesale dry goods store of Van Ausdal & Gray, in Cincinnati. Returning to Eaton, he began the study of the law in the office of his brother-in-law, John M. U. McNutt, and in 1834 was admitted to the bar, and began the practice of his profession in partnership with Mr. McNutt, which partnership continued until the death of Mr. McNutt, in 1837. After the death of his partner, Mr. Hawkins continued the practice alone until the admission of his brother, A. J. Hawkins, with whom and with William J. Gilmore he was associated in business until the date of his death, August 4, 1852.

Intellectually he was the equal of any of his contemporaries. He was a profound lawyer, able debater, superior advocate before a jury, and was possessed of a wide range of information. In politics he was an active and earnest Whig. In 1840 he was elected a member of the house of representatives from Preble county in the state legislature, and was re-elected to the same office in 1841, and again in 1843 and 1847, and in the session of 1847 was elected speaker of the house. Again in 1849, he was re-elected to the legislature, and on the assembling of that body he was the Whig candidate for speaker of the house, but was defeated, the Democratic candidate being elected by the union of the Democrats and Free-soilers.

When the Mexican war began Mr. Hawkins recruited a company for service in the army, and was made its captain; but, although he marched his company to the rendezvous at Camp Washington, Cincinnati, his company was not accepted, as the requisition for the state had already been filled. His company was returned home and disbanded.

In 1833 Mr. Hawkins married Lydia

Hubbell, who died a few years later. In 1848 Cordelia Scott became his second wife. There were no children by either marriage.

ANDREW J. HAWKINS.

Andrew Jackson Hawkins, a son of Captain Joseph C. Hawkins, was born in Eaton, Ohio, July 15, 1815. After receiving a fair common school education he was employed for several years in the wholesale dry goods house of Van Ausdal & Gray, at Cincinnati. In the year 1835 his father opened a dry goods store in Hagerstown, Indiana, and our subject and his father together remained there until 1841, when the father was appointed register of the land office at Fairfield, Iowa, and took his son with him to that place, as a clerk in his office. A few years later young Hawkins returned to Eaton and began the study of law with his brother, and after he was admitted to the bar he was associated with his brother in practice until his death, February 16, 1849. He gained a fair reputation as an attorney, his noted character for candor gaining for him a great prestige before a jury. He was quiet and unobtrusive in manner, respected and appreciated. In politics he was a pronounced Whig, but never sought or held office.

At the age of twenty-seven Mr. Hawkins married Miss Mary Elizabeth DeGroot, a daughter of Robert DeGroot, of Eaton.

ISAAC A. TYLER.

Among the native sons of Ohio who through an active business career have been identified with the Buckeye state and have ever contributed toward its material improve-

ment, progress and advancement, is Isaac A. Tyler, who now follows farming on section 4, Jackson township, Preble county. He was born in Newbury township, Geauga county, on the 9th of September, 1832. His father, Cutler Tyler, was born at Western, now Warren, Massachusetts, on the 19th of November, 1794, and his tastes were in the line of mechanical pursuits. In early life he learned the carpenter's trade, and at the age of eighteen bought his time of his father and entered upon an independent business career. He was not only self-reliant and resolute, but possessed great energy and physical power of endurance, as evidenced by the fact that he walked from Western to Boston, a distance of over seventy miles—in a single day, returning the following day.

In 1818, in company with Marsena Munn, his family and others, he came to Ohio, leaving Munson, Massachusetts, May 19th and reaching Newbury on the 28th of June. During the following autumn or winter he returned on foot to the Bay state, and in 1819 again started for Ohio with a horse and sleigh, but was obliged to leave his sleigh and secure a wagon before reaching his destination. Here, while others leveled the forests, he used the timber in the erection of dwellings for the pioneer families, and some of the earliest and best buildings in Burton and Newbury stand as monuments to his thrift, industry and capable workmanship. More for the purpose of securing a home than the following of agricultural pursuits, he purchased a farm in the southern part of Newbury township, Geauga county, and on the 13th of November, 1825, he was married to Miss Sarah Fisher. The young couple began their domestic life in their log-cabin home situated near the site of their frame house which

Mr. Tyler afterward built and which he occupied until his death. It is now occupied by his daughter Ruth and her husband, John B. Waterton. There Mr. Tyler gradually gave more and more attention to the agricultural pursuits, frequently, however, finding use for his carpenter tools in making improvements on his own and his neighbors' farms.

His work was durable and substantial and many of the structures which he erected still stand as monuments to his handiwork and bid fair to outlast even another generation. Such was not only the nature of his work but also of his word, which was as good as a "gilt-edged bond. He was just and fair in all his dealings and his opinions and judgments commanded the respect and confidence of all. For several years he filled the office of justice of the peace, and on other occasions filled different township offices. He reluctantly accepted these and never sought political preferment, but his fellow townsmen, recognizing his ability and his integrity in the discharge of official duty, greatly desired that he should serve them in some such capacity. When between the ages of forty and fifty years he made a public profession of religion and was baptized, but united with no church. He was, however, a firm believer in Christianity, was a liberal contributor to the support of the gospel and maintained family worship in his own home. His wife was an active and devoted Christian woman, holding membership in the Congregational church. They were also warm friends of the cause of temperance, of education and of true reform, and not only ministers but temperance and scientific and anti-slavery lecturers also enjoyed the generous hospitality of 'Squire Tyler's home. Reared

amid such circumstances and home teachings, it is not strange that of his six children who lived to years of maturity not one has ever used tobacco or alcoholic stimulants as a beverage. The poor and needy found in Mr. and Mrs. Tyler their greatest friends and never sought their aid in vain. He was indeed a charitable man whose benevolences were executed in the spirit of the mandate, "Let not your right hand know what your left hand doeth." He was one of the first and most active in planning and furnishing funds for the brick house and school room at Newbury, and his funeral was the first service held in the church room.

One little incident in his life shows that his disposition to overcome difficulties is worthy of mention. During one season, when he was building one of his barns, he was also having a well dug, and on a certain day while looking into the well he fell in. As he did so some of the toes on one of his feet were bent over backward. Dr. Ludlow proposed setting them, an operation which would require him to keep quiet for some time and thus keep him from his work. Mr. Tyler, however, wished them to be cut off. This the doctor refused to do; so with the chisel and mallet with one blow Mr. Tyler severed them from his foot, after which the doctor dressed the injured member and with a block nailed to the sole of his shoe and the upper leather cut from the toe, the father of our subject resumed work on his farm again.

Death came to him unexpectedly and he passed away April 3, 1857. He was returning from Cleveland and while he was descending the hill west of Chagrin Falls he was observed in a reclining position in his wagon, and when help reached him he gave

a few gasps and all was over. Thus at the age of sixty-two he quickly passed away, leaving many friends on this side the dark river sorrowing, but not without the bright hope of meeting him in the home beyond. His memory remains as a blessed benediction to all who knew him, and surely the world is better for his having lived. His wife bore the maiden name of Sarah Fisher, and to her husband was ever a faithful companion and helpmeet on life's journey, aiding him in all his work that tended to make the world better. She carefully reared her family of eight children, four of whom are yet living, namely: Isaac A.; Ruth, wife of John B. Waterton, who resides on the old homestead; Reuben, an attorney in Wyoming, Ohio, and John W., an attorney of Cleveland.

On his father's farm Isaac A. Tyler spent the years of his minority and in the common schools acquired his preliminary education, which was supplemented by study in the Oberlin College and in the Burton Academy. At the age of twenty he began teaching, following that profession through the winter seasons, while in the summer months he worked upon the farm until his father's death. After his marriage in 1859 he removed to Butler county, Ohio, but in 1860 came to Jefferson township, Preble county, where he purchased eighty-eight and a half acres of land and engaged in farming on his own account. He continued his teaching through the winter of 1864 and then abandoned that profession in order to devote his time exclusively to the operation of his land. He continued in Jefferson township up to 1883, when he took up his abode in Jackson township, where he has since resided, here having two hundred and sixty acres of land,

which constitutes one of the best improved farms in the county.

On the 31st of March, 1859, Mr. Tyler was united in marriage to Miss Catherine Hetzler, a native of Germantown, Montgomery county, born October 9, 1830, and a daughter of Samuel and Catherine Hetzler. Her father was one of the native sons and well known agriculturists of Montgomery county, whither his father had come in an early day. The latter took up his abode on Brown's run and there spent his remaining days.

Mr. and Mrs. Tyler had two children: Samuel C., a hardware merchant of Norwalk, Ohio; and John William, at home. The mother died in 1877 and in 1879 Mr. Tyler married Miss Louisa Jane Downing, a native of Darke county. Her mother belonged to the Morrison family, who were among the earliest settlers of Jefferson township, coming from Kentucky to this county in the year 1806. By the second marriage there was one child, now deceased. Mrs. Tyler also passed away July 3, 1895.

In his political views Mr. Tyler is a stalwart Republican. In early life he was a member of the Congregational church, but since coming to this locality has not identified himself with any organization. He is, however, an earnest Christian gentleman, contributes of his means to the support of the church and is one of the well known and highly respected residents of Preble county. In his business affairs he has prospered and is to-day one of the substantial agriculturists of his community. Although sixty-eight years of age he possesses great energy and physical endurance and does as much work as any man on his farm. His characteristics have led to the development of a worthy manhood, and in all life's relations he

has commanded the respect, confidence and good will of those with whom he has been associated.

JOHN M. U. McNUTT.

John M. U. McNutt, a native of the province of Nova Scotia, was born in Halifax, July 25, 1802, and his death occurred in Eaton, Ohio, September 25, 1837. His parents were natives of the state of New Jersey, and had emigrated to Nova Scotia some few years after the close of the war of the Revolution.

Our subject received a collegiate education. He was a thorough classical scholar, of fine literary taste and broad intellectual endowment. He came to Preble county in 1822 and first took up his residence in the village of New Lexington. Here he engaged in the business of teaching soon after his advent into the county, and continued the occupation in the village of New Lexington or vicinity for some two or three years. During this time he pursued the study of the law, with a view of adopting that as a profession. In 1825 he was admitted to the bar as an attorney and counselor at law. After his admission to the bar he took up his residence in Eaton, and engaged in the practice of his profession in partnership with his preceptor, Lazarus Miller. In February, 1828, he was appointed to the office of prosecuting attorney. He was continued in this office until the summer of 1833. In the year 1828 he was elected to the legislature, and re-elected in 1829. In 1832 he was elected to the state senate from Preble and Montgomery counties, serving two terms in that body. In both branches of the legislature he served with distinguished ability. After the expiration of his senatorial term Mr. McNutt

was not again in any public service. He died when only thirty-five years of age, his wife having preceded him in death a year or so.

He was married in 1828, to Miss Jane C. Hawkins, daughter of Joseph C. Hawkins. One son was born to them, namely, Joseph Gideon McNutt, who also became a lawyer.

Mr. McNutt was a man of strong intellectuality. He was quick in conception, rapid in his deductions, and logical, terse and compact in his arguments. In debate he was strong and ready rather than ornamental. His was a brilliant career and he rose rapidly in his profession and in public life.

DAVID SWARTZEL.

This well known farmer residing on section 7, Monroe township, Preble county, is a native of this state, born near Farmersville, in Jackson township, Montgomery county, March 25, 1839, a son of Jacob and Barbara (Ruby) Swartzel, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively. His paternal grandfather was Henry Swartzel, a native of Pennsylvania and a pioneer of Montgomery county, Ohio. The parents of our subject were both very young when brought by their respective parents to this state. Jacob Swartzel grew to manhood in Montgomery county, where he engaged in farming and lumbering in early life and also operated a sawmill. In 1846 he removed to Washington township, Preble county, where he built a sawmill, which was first run by water power and later by steam, and this he carried on for many years. He died at the age of seventy-two, his wife at the age of seventy-six years, honored and respected by all who knew them.

The subject of this review is the fourth

child and second son in a family of five children. He was seven years of age when brought by his parents to this county, and was reared on a farm near Eaton. In 1866 he was united in marriage with Miss Martha J. Pence, a native of Monroe township, Preble county, and a daughter of Nimrod and Elizabeth (Kesling) Pence, who were early settlers here. She is the oldest of a family of ten children, and by her marriage to our subject has become the mother of four children who are still living, namely: Mary; Kate, wife of Frank Blackford; Edith and Charles.

After his marriage Mr. Swartzel located in Jefferson township, where he made his home until 1873, and then removed to his present farm on section 7, Monroe township, where he owns eighty-four acres of highly cultivated land. His comfortable residence was erected in 1884. He is engaged in general farming, and is meeting with fair success in his labors. Fraternally he is a member of the Grange, and politically is identified with the Democratic party.

WILLIAM CAMPBELL.

William Campbell, one of the earliest pioneers of Preble county, was originally of Greenbrier county, Virginia, but was reared to manhood and educated in Kentucky. He came to Preble county when it was still a portion of Montgomery county, in 1807. He settled in Lanier township, then unorganized and unnamed, and known as township 5, range 3. There he carried on farming and stock-raising, and continued to reside the rest of his days. He was regarded by his neighbors as a man of sterling qualities and worth.

As a captain of a company of infantry,

he participated in the war of 1812. He was born July 27, 1780, and died June 16, 1837, being nearly fifty-seven years of age at the time of his death. He came to Preble county a single man, twenty-seven years of age. Two years after he came to this county he was united in marriage to Catherine Van Ausdal, a native of Berkeley county, Virginia, and sister of Eaton's pioneer merchant, Cornelius Van Ausdal, of whom mention is made elsewhere. She outlived her husband many years, dying at the age of seventy-three years, in 1859. William and Catherine (Van Ausdal) Campbell were the parents of five children who reached adult age, namely: Maria, James, John I., William and John V.

JOHN V. CAMPBELL.

John V. Campbell, a son of William Campbell, was born in Preble county, Ohio, December 27, 1815. He attended the log cabin schools of pioneer days, and then the Eaton schools, and we find him teaching school at the early age of sixteen. When but a youth, too, we find him serving as deputy county clerk, and while thus employed he began the study of the law. In 1841 President Tyler appointed him the postmaster at Eaton, an office which he held for about ten years. While in this office he kept a bookstore and did more or less legal business, and had charge of the first express and first telegraph offices established in Eaton. During the Mexican war and the war of the Rebellion Mr. Campbell did service in the pay department. Although long prepared for it Mr. Campbell did not seek admission to the bar until 1852. Very soon thereafter he was elected probate judge of Preble county, which he held for two terms, making for

himself a reputation of which any one might well be proud. After leaving the bench, Judge Campbell followed without interruption the practice of law until his death. He was elected county prosecuting attorney in 1873. He served as an efficient member of the Eaton school board for a long term of years; for several years he served as the secretary and treasurer of the Preble County Bible Society; was an active supporter of temperance organizations; was a prominent Odd Fellow and supporter of other fraternal and benevolent societies, and took a deep interest in all movements for the public good. Politically he was a Whig until 1841, when he became a Democrat for the rest of his life. Religiously he was a firm and ardent supporter of the Christian faith.

In the year 1842 Judge Campbell married Ann E., a daughter of Robert Martin, then one of the judges of the court of common pleas in Preble county. The offspring of this marriage were three sons and eight daughters, namely: Francis A., Eva Belle, Mary S., Birdie, Gertrude, William H., Robert E., John B., Belle Maria, Emma and Sarah M.

SAMUEL REID.

Samuel Reid is one of the well known farmers of Preble county and deserves great credit for the success which he has achieved and which has won him the respect of his fellow townsmen. He was born of slave parents in Rockbridge county, Virginia, on the 9th of October, 1829. His parents were John and Ruth (Brown) Reid. In this family were nine children, five of whom are yet living, David, Charles, Samuel, Liggins and Hastin. Both parents were natives of Rockbridge county, Virginia, and were born in

bondage. The father died while still a slave, just prior to the breaking out of the war, but the mother lived to enjoy freedom. The close of the civil war found Samuel Reid a free man, after having spent thirty-five years serving a master. He had belonged to Mr. Davidson and he early acquired a good knowledge of business methods, gaining his owner's confidence, and at the age of eighteen was made the foreman and manager of the plantation, having under his entire charge property to the value of forty thousand dollars. In June, 1864, when General Hunter made his raid through the Shenandoah valley Mr. Reid joined the army and remained with it until the following April. He was assigned to Company I, Thirty-fourth Ohio Infantry, and served with that command until the following April, when when he was discharged on account of physical disability, caused by rheumatism.

Having a brother-in-law living in Preble county, Ohio, Mr. Reid wended his way to this county, where he remained until the latter part of the following July, when he returned to Virginia for his family. He immediately brought them to Preble county, arriving in New Paris on the 13th of August, with his wife, seven children and his mother. His cash capital consisted at the time of only five dollars. He made his way to Campbellstown, Jackson township, and began operating a farm for Thomas McWhinney, who gave him one-third of the crops in return for his services. During the following year Mr. Reid worked almost night and day in order to gain a start. He remained upon Mr. McWhinney's farm for five years and two months and then removed to a farm in Jefferson township, owned by Ralph Wildredge. Here he furnished his own stock and implements and in return for

the cultivation of the farm received one-half of the products. Five years later, as the result of his thrift, economy and industry, he was able to purchase the farm, of seventy and a half acres. In 1882 he purchased eighty acres of land, upon which he now resides and the following year removed to his new home. In 1889 he purchased ninety-six acres adjoining his seventy-acre farm, partly in Jefferson and partly in Jackson townships. In 1892 he bought another adjoining farm of fifty acres, and in 1895 he acquired through mortgage a residence property in Richmond, valued at eighteen hundred dollars. In April, 1900, he purchased twenty-three acres adjoining his home farm, and thus from time to time he has added to his property until he is now one of the extensive land-owners of the county.

When he came to Ohio with his large family and but five dollars in his pocket many would have said that he did not have a very bright future before him; but success rewards all who are diligent and enterprising and whose labors are guided by sound judgment, and, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles in his path, Mr. Reid has by determined purpose worked his way upward and is to-day the owner of three hundred and seventeen acres of valuable land.

In 1851 Mr. Reid was united in marriage to Miss Sarah Huston, and unto them have been born nine children, five of whom are yet living: David P., at home; Charles H., who is engaged in the feed business in Springfield, Ohio, and is meeting with success; Samuel J., a farmer of Jefferson township; Hastin C., a farmer and representative of the Reid Fertilizing Company, of New York, now living in Jackson township; and Liggins, a farmer of Jefferson township. The sons are all prosperous and promise to do

honor to their father's memory, bringing no shadow or discredit to the good name he left to them. In his political views Mr. Reid is a stalwart Republican. He holds membership in the Methodist church and contributes liberally to church and charitable work. He recently lost his wife, who was ever to him a faithful companion and helpmeet. This has been the greatest sorrow of his life and her place in the household is one which cannot be filled. She carefully managed her household affairs and was earnestly devoted to the welfare of her husband and children, and all who knew her esteemed her for her many excellent qualities. Mr. Reid is one of the well known men of Preble county and all who are at all familiar with his record admire and respect him for all he has accomplished. His life record contains many lessons which may well be heeded, for it illustrates what can be accomplished through energy, enterprise and earnest purpose. He is to-day the owner of valuable land, and all his possessions stand as a monument to his thrift and enterprise.

ABNER HAINES.

Abner Haines, a native of Guilford county, North Carolina, was born March 26, 1804. His parents were Friends or Quakers, and his mother was a noted preacher of that denomination. Abner was the third child of a family of four sons and two daughters. When he was but four years old his father's family emigrated to Ohio and made their permanent settlement in Clinton county. Young Haines worked on the farm and attended the common schools. Before attaining his majority he began school teaching. In 1826 he came to Eaton, then a village of some six hundred people. Here

he was employed as teacher of the village school, and during the next two or three years he accumulated a small amount of means. With this sum to pay his way, he entered Miami University, at Oxford, where he pursued his studies until he had acquired a good knowledge of the higher mathematics and of the dead languages. He did not graduate at this institution, however. He began the study of law in the office of J. M. U. McNutt, of Eaton, and was admitted to the bar in 1831, in Preble county. Immediately he went to Centerville, Indiana, and there began the practice of his profession. Later we find him in partnership with Hon. Oliver H. Smith, then living in Connersville, and afterwards United States senator from Indiana. Mr. Haines remained at Connersville until the year 1837, and then for a short time merchandised in the village of Boston, Indiana. We next find him in Eaton, again in the practice of law, which he vigorously pursued, becoming one of the best known and most successful lawyers of this section of the state. In 1851 he was elected circuit judge. He occupied the bench with credit and distinction between three and four years, resigning before the expiration of the term for which he was elected to serve.

Politically he was of the old Whig party up to the year 1844, when, on account of some disaffection, he held aloof from politics for several years but finally identifying himself with the Democratic party, and in the Democratic convention of 1848, as a member, he was the author of the celebrated "mitigate and finally eradicate" resolution, which, being passed, was the means of temporarily uniting the Democrats and Free-soilers. But in 1856 he espoused the cause of the Republican party, and thereafter he continued a true and loyal Republican until

1872, when, believing, as he did, that it was expedient to elect Horace Greeley president, he gave his support to the Democrats. In 1876 he was elected on the Democratic ticket to the office of state senator from the district composed of Preble and Montgomery counties. His death occurred at Columbus, Ohio, March 19, 1877.

In the year 1829 he married Nancy Thornberry, and soon after the birth of a son to them the wife and child died. This was a little less than a year after her marriage. In 1832 Mr. Haines married Lydia Leas, a daughter of George and Mary Leas, pioneers of Preble county. Five sons and two daughters were the fruits of this union.

DAVID MOREHEAD.

The honored subject of this review has been for half a century a resident of Preble county, where he has lived and labored to goodly ends, and it is with gratification that we offer in this publication a brief review of his genealogy and personal career. Mr. Morehead is a native son of the old Keystone state, having been born in Franklin county, Pennsylvania, in the year 1825, one of the four children of James Morehead, and at the present time the only survivor of the family. His mother died when he was not quite two years of age, and he was thereupon taken into the home of his uncle, James Cunningham, a resident of Chester county, Pennsylvania, where he lived until he had attained the age of fifteen years, when his foster parents removed to Richmond, Indiana, whither he accompanied them. In this section the youth was employed at farm work, giving his attention to this line as an employe of various farmers in the vicinity of Richmond, where he remained until the year 1851, when he

came to New Westville (Progress), Ohio, and has ever since been a resident of Preble county, where he has gained prestige as one of our successful farmers and valued citizens. On his arrival here Mr. Morehead secured employment with a huckster, driving a three-horse team between this section and the city of Cincinnati, which was the nearest market point of importance, and for nearly a decade he continued to be identified with this line of work, as an employe of different huckstering firms. His last employer, for whom he worked more than six years, conducted a general store in New Westville, in connection with which he operated peddling wagons in this section, selling goods to the farmers from the stock thus transported, as was the common custom in the early days. Our subject thus became a salesman on his route, and his long retention of the position gives unmistakable evidence of his ability and his fidelity to the interests of his employer.

In the early '60s Mr. Morehead effected the purchase of the mercantile and huckstering business of his employer, incidentally assuming an indebtedness of more than a thousand dollars, which was a large amount for those days, but within eighteen months he had liquidated all indebtedness and from that time forward was prosperous in his operations, which he carried on with keen business acumen, bringing to bear the most progressive methods and gaining a reputation for absolute integrity in all relations of life. His business expanded and dignified itself with the development and advancement of this section of the state, and Mr. Morehead was known as one of our most successful business men until advancing years and successes won led him to retire from active labors in this line in the year 1895. He is

well known throughout Preble and Darke counties, Ohio, and Wayne county, Indiana, and his popularity is based on long years of association with business interests and with those enterprises and undertakings which ever tend to conserve the public welfare.

In the intervening years Mr. Morehead began purchasing land in this county, where he now has a fine farmstead of one hundred and twenty-six acres, on section 5, Jackson township, where he conducts operations according to the most approved methods, his farm being one of the most attractive in this section, being well improved and under a high state of cultivation.

The marriage of Mr. Morehead was solemnized in 1857, when he was united to Miss Nancy Kissinger, and they are the parents of two children: Mary, who is the wife of Charles Smeltser, of St. Louis, Missouri, and John, who is associated with his father in the operation of the home farm.

In politics Mr. Morehead gives allegiance to the Republican party and in religion is a consistent member of the Methodist church, with which Mrs. Morehead also is identified. In his fraternal relations he has been identified with New Paris Lodge, No. 303, I. O. O. F., since 1857, having taken a lively interest in the work of the order. Widely known and enjoying a distinct popularity throughout this section, this review of Mr. Morehead's life will be perused with interest by the many readers of this work.

SMITH J. DANSER.

One seeing Smith J. Danser would hardly credit the statement that he is in his eighty-fifth year, so vigorous and well preserved is he. His eight decades and a half rest lightly upon him. Throughout Preble

county and the community he is known as Jack Danser and he has a very wide acquaintance.

He was born in Nottingham Square, Burlington county, New Jersey, June 24, 1816. His father, James Danser, was born in the same state, January 26, 1782, and was a blacksmith by trade. He married Miss Mary Mount and their children were: Samuel B., who was born September 2, 1803, and became a blacksmith; Mathias, who was born February 16, 1805, and was also a blacksmith; Rebecca, who was born May 22, 1806, and became Mrs. Hammell, three of her five children surviving her at her death; Lucy, who was born January 14, 1808, and died in 1847, sixty-one years of age; David, who was born May 25, 1809, and is survived by his wife, who is ninety years of age; John, who was born January 24, 1811, and died in childhood; Lea and Rachel, twins, born March 13, 1812, and James, who was born December 12, 1814, and died at the age of forty years in New York city, where he conducted an oyster booth.

Mr. Danser, whose names heads this record, left home several times during his youth, and at the age of fifteen left the parental roof, not returning again for twelve years. He began learning the blacksmith's trade in early boyhood. He possessed a mischievous spirit, such as is common in boys, and was not fond of the irksome duties of the school room, enjoying much more the pleasures of the playground. He, therefore, neglected his studies, but since attaining man's estate he has become an extensive reader and is well informed. He worked at the blacksmith's trade for thirty-two years. The first shop which he ever owned was located at Venice, Butler county, Ohio, where he remained for ten years. On the expira-

tion of that period he purchased a grocery in Hamilton, Ohio, and after conducting it for more than a year engaged in the dry goods business at that place. A few days later, however, he sold the latter store at a profit of fourteen hundred dollars. His next venture was in the livery business in Hamilton, and for two years he supplied the people of that vicinity with teams and vehicles. In 1862 he began dealing in horses, purchasing them for the army. He was thus engaged throughout the war and found the enterprise a profitable one. In order to educate his children he removed to Oxford, where he conducted a livery for some time. Subsequently he purchased a hotel in Camden, about 1873, and on selling that he returned to Hamilton. A year later, however, he again came to Camden and once more took charge of the hotel, which he conducted for a number of years. He then again sold the property and at the present time he is living retired. He has dealt in horses to a considerable extent, buying, raising and selling them, and also trained them on his own tracks in Camden and in Hamilton for racing purposes.

Mr. Danser was married in 1843, to Miss Lucretia Wile, of Hamilton county, where the wedding took place. Nine children were born of their union, three sons and six daughters. They lost an infant daughter, but reared the following: David, who is a resident of Camden; Weller, who died in Oxford, Ohio, at the age of twenty years; Mary, the wife of Samuel Gath, of Oxford, by whom she has three children; Ida, who died at the age of twenty years; Janet, who married Dr. De Mand, and died leaving one son; Caroline, the wife of W. W. Schultz, of Richmond, Indiana, by whom she has one son; Emma, the wife of Franklin Landis,

died leaving one son; and Lee, who married Miss Amy Pugh and is a jeweler of Camden. The mother of these children died in July, 1896, at the age of seventy-eight years, and since that time Mr. Danser has made his home with his son Lee.

He enjoys excellent health and although he has attained the advanced age of eighty-five years he bids fair to enjoy life for many years to come. He is a Master Mason and formerly belonged to the chapter in Hamilton. In politics he is a Democrat, exercising his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of that party.

SAMUEL WIKLE.

One of the venerable and honored citizens of Preble county is Samuel Wikle, a retired farmer of Twin township, where for many years he was actively engaged in agricultural pursuits, in which his efforts were attended with so great a degree of success that he is enabled, in the sunset years of his life, to relegate the active management of the homestead to his sons, who are among the most enterprising and progressive young farmers and business men of the county.

Our subject was born on the farm where he now resides, the date of his nativity having been February 24, 1823. He is the son of George and Catherine (Herman) Wikle and is one of the three survivors of their ten children, the other two being Philip, a resident of Manchester, Ohio, and Solomon, of Lexington, all three of the brothers being now practically retired from active business. George Wikle was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, where he was married. The young couple removed from the Old Dominion to Ohio in 1810, and George Wikle took up his abode in Dayton, where he was

engaged in carpentering for one year, after which he came with his wife to Twin township, Preble county, and there he entered a quarter section of land, where our subject now resides. This farm he eventually divided between two of his sons, he making his home with them until his death. He erected a shop and devoted much of his time to wood working.

Samuel Wikle grew to maturity at the parental home, acquiring his education in the common schools. When he had attained manhood his parents were advanced in years, and as he was the only child then at home he remained to care for his aged parents, according to them the utmost filial solicitude. On the 29th of January, 1850, he was united in marriage to Miss Hannah Reader, who was reared by John Woodring. She was a native of Liberty, Montgomery county, Ohio, and they became the parents of six children, namely: Luther, a resident of Emporia, Kansas; Warren, deceased; Fannie, the widow of Orlando Ridenour, is a resident of Lyon county, Kansas; Ella is the wife of Edward Jordan, a farmer of Twin township, Preble county, Ohio, and Allen and Harry, twins, who have charge of the old home farm. The two youngest sons have superintended the operation of the parental homestead for many years and also own seventy-seven acres in their own right. They received excellent public school education and are young men of fine character and distinct ability. They were born May 11, 1868, and Allen was married November 25, 1895, to Miss Effie Davidson.

After his marriage the subject of this sketch settled down on the home farm, which he shortly afterwards purchased, subsequently adding forty acres to the place, which now includes one hundred and twenty

acres, all of which is under effective cultivation and has permanent improvements of excellent order. For the past twenty years he has lived a retired life, his sons relieving him of the various details involved in the management of the farm and proving their ability to successfully cope with all exigencies that may come up in a practical or business way, but relying at all times upon the counsel and mature judgment of their father. In 1894 the family residence was remodeled and rebuilt and it is an attractive and commodious domicile in which comfort and good cheer are ever in evidence. Mr. Wikle enjoys excellent health, having never had recourse to the services of a physician in his entire life. Politically he supports the Democratic party, and in religion he and his wife are members of the Reformed church. His sons are members of Lewisburg Lodge, No. 695, Knights of Pythias.

DUNHAM HART.

On the list of leading farmers of Preble county appears the name of Mr. Hart, who was born in Dixon township, July 6, 1844, a son of Silas and Hannah (Eslinger) Hart. The father was born near Somerville, Preble county, about the year 1810 and is therefore a representative of one of the honored pioneer settlers of that locality, his father, Thomas Hart, having located here at a very early day. When a boy his parents removed to Dixon township, settling on the Concord road, where they spent their remaining days. The grandfather was thrown from a horse, which occasioned his death. The father of our subject was reared on the old family homestead, and after his marriage he purchased a farm in Somers township, on which he located, and the town of Camden

now occupies a portion of that place. Here Mr. Hart lived for five years, on the expiration of which time he sold that property and came on to Dixon township, purchasing the northeast quarter of section 35. Until 1860 he made his home there and then purchased another farm of one hundred and sixty acres—the tract upon which his son Alexander now resides. There he continued to make his home until his death, which occurred in 1869. He was one of the leading and enterprising men of the county, was a prosperous and public-spirited citizen and served as a member of the school board for a number of years. In 1852 he went to California, attracted by the discovery of gold, and for six years was engaged in mining on the Pacific slope, carrying on operations on Feather river. He made some money, but later lost it in mining speculations. He married Hanna Elsinger, who was born east of Somerville, in Somers township, Preble county, in 1814. She died in 1870, at the advanced age of seventy-four years. She was a daughter of John and Hester Elsinger. Her father, a prominent farmer and early settler of this county, came from North Carolina in 1805. The parents of our subject had nine children, of whom seven are still living. Mentioning all, we make the following record: John E., a farmer in the state of Washington; Thomas J., a farmer of Linn county, Iowa; Isaac N., a farmer of Kansas; Rebecca, deceased; Alexander, a farmer of Dixon township, this county; Dunham, the subject of this sketch; Finnie M., a farmer of southeastern Kansas; Mary E., deceased, and Joseph R., of Indiana.

Dunham Hart, whose name introduces this review, acquired a limited education in the common schools and on attaining his majority he went to northern Missouri, where

for three years he worked as a farm hand. He then purchased a team and began farming on his own account on rented land. After two years thus passed he returned to Ohio a few months after his father's death to aid in settling up the estate. When that work was accomplished he purchased a tile factory from his brothers and was engaged in the manufacture of tile for two years. On the expiration of that period he and his brother Alexander purchased from the other heirs the home farm, comprising three hundred and twenty acres of land, and together they engaged in agricultural pursuits until 1880, when the property was divided, Dunham Hart taking the homestead, while Alexander took the farm upon which he now lives and which had become the father's property in 1860.

On the 20th of January, 1880, Mr. Hart was married to Miss Mary E. Button, a native of Gasper township, Preble county, and a daughter of George and Allie (Zimmerman) Button. Her father was a veteran of the war of 1812 and was one of the well known farmers of Gasper township, having come to Preble county from Kentucky at a very early period of the development of this section of Ohio. After his marriage, Mr. Hart located upon the home farm, where he remained for four years, and in 1884 he purchased his present farm, becoming the owner of seventy acres of rich land. After his mother-in-law died he purchased the estate of one hundred and twelve acres in Gasper township, so that his farming land now comprises four hundred and seven acres. He has been very successful in his business pursuits and through hard work and good management has risen from a humble position as a farm hand to a place among the substantial residents of his native county.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Hart has been blessed with five children, as follows: Leroy, deceased; Dora; Earl, deceased; Walter D. and Allie H. They are all at home and have been provided with good educational privileges, fitting them for life's practical duties. In his political views Mr. Hart is a Democrat and gives his party loyal support. He keeps well informed on the issues of the day, but has never sought or desired office, preferring to devote his energies to his business affairs, in which he has met with creditable success.

Alexander Hart was born in Dixon township, February 6, 1842, and there in the usual manner of farmer lads he was reared to manhood. He was twenty years of age when, on the 27th of August, 1862, he responded to the country's call for troops, enlisting in Company D, Forty-seventh Ohio Infantry. He was with Sherman on the celebrated march to the sea and participated in the battles of Vicksburg and Jackson, Mississippi. On one occasion he was taken quite ill and was sent home on a sixty-days furlough. The general told him not to return, but he disobeyed his injunction and again went to the field, where he participated in the following engagements: Dallas; Resaca; Nikajack Creek; Kenesaw Mountain; siege of Atlanta, when more than half of the regiment was lost; Ezra Church; Fort McAlister, which was taken by only one-half of the division, and Bentonville, South Carolina. At Washington, D. C., on the 15th of June, 1865, he received an honorable discharge, having for almost three years followed the starry banner on the battlefields of the south.

When the war was over Alexander Hart returned to his home and the next day went to work in the tile factory, purchasing an in-

terest in the business of his brother Isaac N., and continued operations along that line until 1869, when he went to Illinois and purchased a saw mill. Three months later, however, he returned to Ohio and engaged in the operation of the home farm until 1871, when he went to California, wishing to see the country and also visit his brother John, who was living in that state. After nine months had passed he returned home, and in 1872 he and his brother Dunham purchased from the estate the two home farms, which they jointly operated until 1880, when a division was made, Dunham taking the old homestead, while Alexander received as his share the farm upon which he has since resided. He operated the tile mill for five years during the '70s, but now gives his attention exclusively to agricultural pursuits, which are carefully managed and bring to him a handsome financial return. He is a very energetic, enterprising man and in his business is making a creditable success. In March, 1879, Dunham Hart went to California, visiting friends in Los Angeles county, and from there to Butte county to visit his brother John, where he spent the remainder of the summer.

On the 14th of December, 1880, Mr. Hart married Miss Emma Griffith, a native of Jackson township, Preble county, and they have had four children, of whom three are living—Elsie, John and Ralph. In his political views Mr. Hart is a Democrat but has never been an aspirant for office. Socially he is connected with the Western Star Lodge, No. 109, I. O. O. F. He served at one time as township treasurer and has long been a public spirited man whose devotion to the general good is sincere and earnest. He withholds his support from no movement or measure which he believes will prove a pub-

lic benefit, and, like his brother Dunham, is recognized as one of the leading and substantial farmers of the county, commanding the respect of all with whom he is associated. Throughout almost the entire century the name of Hart has been connected with the history of the development and progress of this county, for in an early day the grandfather and the father of our subject bore their part in the work of advancement and at a later period the sons have contributed largely to the work that promotes the welfare and upbuilding of the county.

CORNELIUS VAN AUSDAL.

Cornelius Van Ausdal, deceased, was the pioneer merchant of Eaton, and his career as a business man extends through the period from 1806 to the time of his death in 1870. Beginning with a small stock of goods in a cabin situated in the woods, with the scattered pioneers of a large section of country and roaming Indians for his patrons, he continued his mercantile career through all the varying conditions of development down to an era of multiplied advantages and enlarged scope. His long life linked the era of western beginnings with that in which the full and grand results of pioneer labors were flourishing in fruition.

On the 2d day of October, 1783, in Berkeley county, Virginia, was born the subject of this biography. His childhood and youth were spent in his native state, and about the time he had attained his majority Mr. Van Ausdal came west and spent a winter with his brother Peter, who had but recently settled in the wilds of what is now Lanier township, Preble county. Pleased with the country and foreseeing the great opportunities for a young man in this new

locality, he decided to return east and lay plans for entering upon a mercantile career on the frontier. With this object in view, he returned east in the spring of 1805. He bought a quantity of furs and skins, and, packing them upon horses through the sparsely settled region of southern Ohio, and across the mountains, sold them in Baltimore. Returning to his home in Virginia, and acting under consent and advice of his father, he took a load of wheat to Baltimore, and selling it, increased his means with which he purchased a wagon-load of plain, substantial goods, the few honest staples of pioneer life, and slowly made his way westward, reaching Preble county in the spring and was then being laid out by William Bruce, early summer of 1806. The town of Eaton and was already talked of as a prospective county seat. Mr. Van Ausdal opened his first store in a small log cabin, and thus became the first merchant of Eaton, and continued in the mercantile business here for sixty-four years. From the very beginning he prospered, and for many years he carried on a wholesale as well as retail trade. His energy was not confined to one branch of business, large though that branch was made. Various enterprises engaged his attention. A man of broad and liberal views and of public spirit, Mr. Van Ausdal sought to benefit the public as well as himself. Benevolent, he was ever ready to help his fellow-men. Honest and sincere, he won the love and respect of all who came in business and social contact with him. His character in a general way was as admirable as it was in a business sense.

In 1810 Mr. Van Ausdal was appointed United States deputy marshal and in that capacity took the first census of Preble county. In the year 1812 he was a pay-

master of the army, faithfully discharging his duty. In 1819 he was elected to the legislature and represented his county with credit to himself and constituents. About this time he owned *The Western Telegraph*, a weekly paper published at Eaton, which he afterward sold to William Tizzard. He died August 10, 1870, loved and revered, and leaving to his aged helpmate and children the rich legacy of an untarnished name.

In 1812 Mr. Van Ausdal married Martha Bilba, who shared his joys and sorrows for fifty-eight years. She was born in Virginia November 12, 1793, and removed to Kentucky with her parents in an early day. She bore her husband ten children and lived to a ripe old age, respected and beloved by all who knew her. Of her children but three are living, namely: Isaac Van Ausdal, of Dayton; and Mrs. Lucinda Donohoe and Mrs. Emily Gould, both of Eaton.

T. J. WILKINSON.

T. J. Wilkinson is a retired cattle dealer, living in Eaton. He is a native of the neighboring state of Indiana, his birth having occurred in Franklin county, on the 21st of February, 1844. The family emigrated westward from Pennsylvania, where Gideon Wilkinson, the grandfather of our subject, was born. He sought a home in the Hoosier state and became a leading farmer and citizen of the locality in which he maintained his residence. His son, Elisha Wilkinson, the father of our subject, was born in Butler county, Indiana, and reared to agricultural pursuits, carrying on farming throughout his active business career. In 1855 he came to Preble county, locating in Dixon township, where he cultivated a tract of land for

many years. He is still living at the advanced age of eighty-three years, one of the venerable and highly respected citizens of the community. In 1894 he was called upon to mourn the loss of his wife, who in her maidenhood was Rebecca Hazleton, a daughter of Roswell Hazleton. They were the parents of eleven children, six of whom have passed away. Those still living are T. J., of this review; R. H., a resident of Camden; Frank P.; Daniel V.; and Clement L., all of whom are living in Dixon township.

Mr. Wilkinson, of this sketch, spent the first eleven years of his life in the state of his nativity and then came with his parents to Preble county. His educational privileges were those afforded by the public schools, and at an early age he began work on the farm, so that when he began farming on his own account he was well prepared for the work by practical experience. In 1880 he began shipping stock which he purchased throughout the county, shipping to Cincinnati and Pittsburg. In 1881 he took up his abode in Eaton, in order to facilitate his business affairs, and annually handled about two hundred car-loads of stock, his sales bringing to him a good profit. His business was carried on with marked success until December, 1899, when he retired.

On the 3d of October, 1877, Mr. Wilkinson was united in marriage to Miss Abbie H. Brasier. She died in January, 1892, and one of her two children has also departed this life. The surviving daughter is Elsie R., the wife of R. G. Conley, of Cincinnati. In his political views Mr. Wilkinson is a Democrat and in 1894 was complimented by his party with the nomination for county sheriff, but though he polled a large vote he could not overcome the Republican majority.

When we look into his life history to find the secret of his success we see that his prosperity has come along the legitimate channels of trade, being the result of close application to business, earnest purpose and capable management, qualities which may be cultivated by all. It is certainly all the more creditable to know that one has gained prosperity with no better advantages than others and that his success is merely the reward of his own labors.

HERMAN VOGÉ.

Herman Vogé, who is engaged in farming on section 34, Twin township, is a native of the dukedom of Brunswick, Germany, his birth having occurred near Bremen, on the 17th of December, 1837. His parents, John Henry and Margaret (Bohlman) Vogé, had nine children. The father was born in the dukedom of Brunswick, March 15, 1813, was there reared to farm work and after his marriage engaged in farming on his own account. In 1847 he emigrated to America, taking passage on a sailing vessel bound for New Orleans. After a voyage of forty-six days the family reached the Crescent city and then made their way up the river by boat to Cincinnati, from there by canal to Dayton and on to West Alexandria by wagon, finally locating in Twin township, a half mile north of the last named city. There they resided for two years and the father worked in Munro's distillery.

Subsequently he removed to the farm now known as the old Wysong farm, and as our subject had then attained a considerable age he was put to work at the plow while the father drove a team for John Glander, a distiller. They lived for two years on the Curry farm, adjoining the present

home of our subject, and later removed to a farm south of West Alexandria, in Lanier township, known as the John Gale property. There they resided for ten years and on the expiration of that period the father purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land on the Dayton and Western pike, in Montgomery county. Removing to his new home, he there continued to reside until called to his final rest, October 22, 1874. A monument in the West Alexandria cemetery marks the place of his interment. He was a member of the Lutheran church and was one of the highly esteemed men of the county. His wife, who also was a native of the dukedom of Brunswick, was born July 12, 1815, and died September 6, 1888; and she, too, held membership in the Lutheran church and was an earnest Christian woman. Seven of their nine children yet survive, namely: Herman; Christian, a farmer of Montgomery county; John, a farmer of Twin township; Detrick, who is engaged in agricultural pursuits in Twin township; Henry, who follows farming in Washington township; Anna, the wife of Henry Wiger, of Montgomery county; and Charlie, an agriculturist of Twin township.

Herman Vogé was reared at his parental home, acquiring his education in the common schools. At the early age of fourteen he began earning his own livelihood, working as a farm hand. Some three years prior to his marriage he began farming on his own account on rented land, and on the 23d of June, 1864, he chose as a companion and helpmate on life's journey Miss Sarah A. Sauer, a native of Preble county and a daughter of George and Anna M. (Kissling) Sauer. Her father was a native of Germany, born in Weisenham on the Rhine, in 1801. When eighteen years of age he

came to the new world with his parents, the family locating in Butler county, Ohio, near Trenton, on the Hickory Flats. They were well-to-do German people, and after coming to America the grandfather Sauor extensively engaged in farming, becoming the possessor of valuable property. He resided in Butler county until two years prior to his death, when he came to Preble county, making his home with his son George. He made three trips to Germany, visiting his native land. For three years George Sauer resided on his father's farm in Butler county, but after his marriage came to Preble county and purchased seventy-five acres, which joins the farm upon which our subject now resides. There he remained until his death and acquired extensive realty holdings. He married Anna Mary Kissling, whose father, Henry Kissling, was one of the early settlers in this section of Ohio. He and a Mr. Miller took up some six hundred acres of land, which they later divided into equal shares. Mr. Kissling built a log cabin and cleared a tract of land. In a hollowed-out stump they tramped the corn, sifting out the finer meal for johnnycakes, while the coarser was used for hominy. He and his wife were very active members of the Reformed church and often walked to Lewisburg to attend church services. He was noted for his charity and benevolence, the poor and needy always finding in him a friend. On one occasion he found a man stealing corn, and instead of seeing that he was punished he gave him an acre of land on which he might raise a crop for himself! He was very fond of hunting and fishing and obtained considerable skill in those directions.

After his marriage, Mr. Voge, of this review, followed agricultural pursuits on the place where he now makes his home. He

operated his father-in-law's land as well as his own, the latter being a tract of one hundred and fifty-five acres given him by his father-in-law. He added to that by purchase a tract of forty-three acres and six years later he removed to his own home, where he resided until 1890, when he purchased the old family homestead, erecting thereon a handsome residence and a large barn. He now owns two hundred and seventy acres of land and has one of the best improved farms in the county, everything about the place being neat and thrifty in appearance.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Voge have been born seven children: Mary, now the wife of George Copp, a farmer of Twin township, Preble county; Lizzie, the wife of Daniel Coppas, a druggist of Tipton county, Indiana; Charlie, who is engaged in farming a part of his father's land; Callie, the wife of Irvin Coffman, of Dayton, Ohio; and Laura, John and Ruth at home. Mr. Voge and his family are active members of the Lutheran church, doing much to aid in its growth and up-building. The cause of education finds in our subject a warm friend, and he has efficiently served for many years as a member of the school board of Twin township. He exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy, but has never been an aspirant for office, preferring to devote his energies to his business interests, in which he has met with creditable prosperity.

CAREY TONEY.

Carey Toney is one of the most highly esteemed and honored residents of Dixon township, Preble county. His life has been

devoted to agricultural pursuits and to the work of the ministry. He was born upon the farm where his brother William now lives, April 29, 1842. His father, Harmon Toney was a native of Rockingham county, Virginia, and the grandfather, Carey Toney, was also born in the same locality, whence he emigrated to Ohio in 1810. He became a very prominent man in Dixon township and was recognized as a leader of public thought and movement. True to his duties of citizenship, he took an active interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community. He was particularly prominent in church work and served as a deacon in the United Brethren church. Harmon Toney, the father of our subject, was reared in Preble county amid the wild scenes of frontier life, and having arrived at years of maturity he wedded Fannie Kinzey, a daughter of Jacob Kinzey, who came from the Old Dominion to the Buckeye state. Her death occurred October 16, 1856, and the father of our subject died in 1895. They had six children, three of whom are now living, namely: William, a resident of Dixon township; Carey, of this review; and James, who is also living in Dixon township.

Carey Toney pursued his education in the country schools near his home and worked upon the home farm, assisting in the labors of field and meadow from the time that the planting was begun in the early spring until crops were harvested in the late autumn. In 1863 he began farming on his own account. He purchased the Clinghamfield farm and occupied it until 1889, then moved to the farm known as the Cunningham farm and lived there until the spring of 1891; next until the spring of 1896 he lived near Connersville, Indiana, and finally moved to his present place of residence, which he

purchased of William C. Hart. He has aided both of his daughters by giving to them valuable tracts of land, and yet owns over six hundred acres, divided into several farms, which are carried on under his immediate supervision. His property has been acquired entirely through his own well directed efforts. He has ever been an industrious and energetic man, to whom indolence and idleness are utterly foreign. His work has been carefully and diligently prosecuted, and as a return for his honest toil he has gained a comfortable competence.

Mr. Toney has been twice married. He first wedded Miss Sarah Moss, their union being celebrated on the 20th of October, 1863. The lady was a daughter of Edmund Moss, of Indiana, and her death occurred August 10, 1887. By her marriage she had become the mother of seven children, of whom three are living, namely: Almeda, the wife of Josiah Rhinehart, who is living near the old homestead; Emma, the wife of Cornelius Petry, a farmer of the same neighborhood; and John E., a resident agriculturist of Dixon township. On the 8th of October, 1891, Mr. Toney again married, his second union being with Mrs. Hannah Riley, a daughter of John Petro, of Indiana. They had one son, Harmon. For thirty years Mr. Toney has been an active and consistent member of the German Baptist Brethren church, and for many years has been one of its ministers. His labors in behalf of the church have been very effective, and by precept and example he has influenced many to seek the better way of life. His labors in the church and on the farm have been most untiring, and his own honorable career has commended him to the confidence, respect and esteem of all with whom he has been brought in contact.

ELI OZIAS.

Eli Ozias, one of the venerable citizens of Preble county, has passed the ninetieth milestone of life's journey and in the evening of life receives the respect which should ever be accorded to one of advanced years whose life has been upright and honorable. He is a native son of the county and probably is the oldest living person born in this locality. His birth occurred in Twin township, April 25, 1810, on the farm where his son now resides. He is the only surviving member of a family of eleven children, whose parents were Jacob and Susan (Christman) Ozias. His father was born in Guilford county, North Carolina, and was a son of John and Elizabeth Ozias, who removed from the Keystone state to the old North state. In 1803 the grandfather emigrated with his family to Ohio with a colony who were six weeks upon the journey over the mountains. The trip was a long and tedious one and they were very weary when they at length reached their destination. They made a settlement in Warren county, Ohio, near Springborough, but after a short time came to Preble county and the grandfather purchased three half-sections of land, giving each of his children a half-section farm.

He devoted the winter of 1803-4 to seeking a location and then selected for the Ozias family eighteen hundred and eighty acres of land on the big bottom of Twin creek, directly south of Lewisburg. Upon his land Jacob Ozias located and began the development of a farm, clearing away the timber and transforming the wild tract into richly cultivated fields, which he continued to cultivate up to the time of his death. He was very prosperous and by his well directed and energetic efforts he acquired about eight

hundreds acres of land. The Ozias family were prominent in promoting the upbuilding and progress of the county and bore their share in all the hardships and trials of pioneer life. On one occasion John Ozias and his wife, the former a brother of Jacob Ozias, were returning to their home, having that day aided Jacob in butchering. It was nearing night and they carried with them spare ribs and sausages given them by Jacob. Wolves, attracted by the smell of the fresh meat, started in pursuit and John Ozias and his wife were hardly able to reach their own cabin. The wolves were almost upon them when they closed the door of their little home. On another occasion, while her husband was away, Mrs. John Ozias, on looking up from her work, saw that a rattlesnake was coiled up in the middle of the floor. She was an inexperienced little woman and did not fight the snake as many a pioneer woman would have done, but, snatching her babe from the cradle, she ran to a neighbor's. Later the puncheon floor of the cabin was removed and a number of the poisonous reptiles were found under the house and killed! The Ozias family also experienced the plague known as milk-sickness, from which not only the people but their stock suffered, occasioning heavy loss to the pioneers who were attempting to establish homes in the wilderness.

Eli Ozias was reared amid the wild scenes of frontier life, and his educational privileges were very limited, for the schools of these days were inadequate. The lessons were taught by incompetent teachers, who ruled in little log cabins and maintained discipline by the aid of the birchen rod. Having arrived at the age of maturity Mr. Ozias was married, on the 6th of April, 1845, to Miss Elizabeth A. Wikle, a native of Twin

township, who was born January 29, 1828, a daughter of Frederick Wikle and a granddaughter of Philip Wikle. The latter came to Ohio at a very early day from Virginia and cast in his lot with the pioneers of Preble county. After his marriage Mr. Ozias and his bride located on the farm which is still his home. He purchased one hundred and ninety acres of the old home place and through many years was actively identified with the agricultural interests of the community. His home was blessed with the presence of eight children: Parthena D., now deceased; Leonidas, who is operating the home farm and married Melissa Hamilton, by whom he has four children—Raymond R., Jesse G., Frederick E. and James H.; Mary S., Thomas M., Van Rensselear and Benjamin S., all now deceased; Frederick Elbert, who resides on the old Ozias place where our subject was born, and Jacob P., a farmer of Harrison township, Preble county.

In his political views Eli Ozias has long been a stanch Republican, but has never been an office seeker, although he served for several years on the school board. He has done much toward the building of good roads in the county, and was road commissioner for about sixteen years. He believes in progress and improvement and has withheld his support from no movement calculated to advance the general welfare. He is familiar with the history of the county from its pioneer days, has seen its wonderful growth and development and has ever borne his share in the work of improvement. His has been a long, useful and active career, and he continued to engage in the work of his farm until about two years ago. He is now enjoying a well earned rest, and though he has reached the age of ninety he appears

a good many years younger and it is the earnest wish of his many friends that he will be spared for many years to come.

LEVIN T. M'CABE.

Levin T. McCabe, deceased, one of the most active merchants of Eaton, and a prominent promoter of public improvements, was a native of Worcester county, Maryland, born December 23, 1807. His parents were Amos and Zipporah (Jones) McCabe, natives of Delaware and Maryland, respectively, and he was the elder son in their family of two sons and four daughters. The first eighteen years of his life were spent on his father's farm, and his education was a limited one.

Walking nearly all the way from Maryland, young McCabe landed in Eaton, Ohio, May 10, 1826, and here became a farm laborer in the employ of William Bruce, with whose sons, Charles and George, he engaged in the business of buying and fattening cattle for the eastern market. It was in 1829, three years after his arrival in the county, that he was engaged in this latter business. In 1835, in company with Henry Montfort, he opened a general store in Eaton and from that time until 1860, when he retired to private life, Mr. McCabe was actively engaged in mercantile lines; and for a greater part of the time he was engaged in the grocery business, and was also a grain dealer for a short time.

Original and enterprising, he progressed. He was one of the most useful men and highly esteemed merchants who ever lived in Preble county.

In early life he was an ardent Whig, and from the organization of the Republican party he gave his unqualified support to it.

In 1832 Mrs. Polly Holliday, the wid-

owed daughter of William Bruce, became his wife. She preceded him in death, passing away in 1873. He died April 1, 1892, aged eighty-four years, three months and nine days.

HERMAN STEINMEYER.

Herman Steinmeyer is one of the prominent farmers of Twin township. He deserves great credit for his success in life, and that he now occupies a position among the substantial residents of his community is due entirely to his own efforts. Gradually he worked his way upward, overcoming all difficulties and obstacles in his path by determined purpose and wresting fortune from the hands of an adverse fate. Industry, perseverance and good management have formed the elements of his success and his life illustrates what may be accomplished by one who has the will to dare and to do.

Mr. Steinmeyer was born November 27, 1840, on the farm where he now resides, his parents being Frederick and Caroline (Schreel) Steinmeyer. The father was born in Prussia, Germany, in 1802, was there reared to manhood and was employed as a cook. In the fall of 1839, in company with his wife, her parents, her brother Charles and her sister Alvina, he crossed the Atlantic to America, landing at New Orleans, whence he made his way up the Mississippi river to St. Louis. There he spent the winter and the following spring proceeded by boat to Cincinnati, thence by canal to Dayton and by wagon across the country to Pymont, where his wife had two brothers living, Frederick and George Schreel. A short time afterward Mr. Steinmeyer, his father-in-law and two brothers-in-law purchased one hundred and sixty acres of land in part-

nership, a portion of which is now included within the home farm of our subject. There Mr. Steinmeyer and his wife's parents, Christopher and Catherine Schreel, took up their abode. The latter, with their son Charles and daughter Alvina, came to America at the same time Frederick Steinmeyer sought a home in the new world. Mr. Schreel was a cooper and wagon-maker by trade and after coming to the United States followed coopering and farming. He passed away in 1854, and his wife died in 1857. Frederick Steinmeyer continued the operation of his land and became a prosperous agriculturist. He lived to a ripe old age, passing away in 1887, at the age of eighty-five. His wife, who was born in 1808, died in 1862, at the age of fifty-four years. They were both active members of the Lutheran church and were people of the highest respectability, enjoying the warm regard of friends and neighbors. He and his wife had four children: Frederick, who died at the age of twenty-three years; Edward, who died at the age of twenty-one years; Herman, our subject; and Caroline, the wife of J. P. Sauer, of Preble county.

Herman Steinmeyer was reared under the parental roof amid the influences of a good home and to the common-school system of the neighborhood is indebted for the educational privileges he enjoyed. As he neared manhood he assumed the burdens of the farm, being the only son, and at the age of twenty-four took entire charge. In 1875 he purchased eighty acres adjoining the home place and in the fall of 1880 purchased seventy-two acres of land, a portion of which was a part of the original quarter section of land purchased by his father and his uncles. In that year he built a barn on the place and in 1885 erected his present commodious brick

residence. In later years he has purchased additional land until his farm property now aggregates four hundred and fifty acres, including a quarter section in Somers township, sixty-two acres across the line in Montgomery county and two hundred and twenty-eight acres in Twin township. He has been very successful in the operation of his land and golden harvests have rewarded the care and cultivation which he bestowed upon the fields. He has always given considerable attention to stock-raising, making a specialty of the raising of cattle, and this has been to him a profitable source of income. In 1890 he purchased a half interest in a saw-mill and tile factory near his residence, and about five years later became the sole proprietor. He is still the owner of the enterprise, which is operated by a foreman whom he employs.

On the 4th of August, 1864, Mr. Steinmeyer was united in marriage to Miss Christina Sauer, a native of Butler county, Ohio, and a daughter of William and Sarah (Potterf) Sauer. Her father was a native of Germany who with his parents came to America when a lad of fifteen years, the family locating in Butler county, Ohio. In 1846 he came to Preble county, settling near West Alexandria. Mr. and Mrs. Steinmeyer have had two children; Ida M., who was born March 23, 1867, and died June 9, 1885; and Sarah Caroline, wife of J. B. Unger, who is now operating her father's farm.

Mr. Steinmeyer has served as school director for many years and has done all in his power to promote the cause of education. He is a member of the Lutheran church and for the past six years has served as its elder. In politics he is a Democrat and keeps well informed on the issues of the day, yet has never been an aspirant for office, preferring

to devote his energies to his business interests, in which he has met with excellent success. His life has been one of marked industry and enterprise, in which a resolute spirit and untiring labor have enabled him to advance steadily step by step until he occupies an enviable position on the plane of affluence.

RICHARD T. ACTON.

Richard T. Acton is now serving for the third term as the mayor of Camden, and no higher testimonial of his faithfulness can be given than the fact that he has twice been re-elected. His administration has been marked by progressiveness, and under his guidance the city has made marked improvement and advancement along many lines. A practical business man, he understands thoroughly the needs of the municipality and conducts his affairs along straightforward business principles. His marked loyalty and devotion to public good have won the recognition and commendation of even his political opponents, and he is regarded to-day as one of the most honored and esteemed citizens of Camden.

A native of Preble county, Mr. Acton was born in Eaton, on the 16th of October, 1851. His father, Joseph P. Acton, now living in Camden, is a native of Rockingham county, Virginia. The grandfather, Joseph Acton, was also born in the Old Dominion and on leaving that state took up his abode in Eaton, Ohio, in 1834. His wife was in her maidenhood Miss Cobb. Both died in Eaton of cholera in 1849, leaving a family of four sons and five daughters. With one exception all are yet living, William having passed away in the prime of life, leaving one son. Of the eight who yet survive the

youngest is now seventy years of age. The grandfather of our subject was a wagon-maker and trained his children to habits of industry and economy. Joseph P. Acton became a cooper and for many years followed that pursuit, but is now living retired in Camden. He has been a resident of Camden since 1859, and during the period of the civil war he joined the Union army, enlisting at Camden in the One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, with which he served for a short time as a non-commissioned officer. He wedded Martha J. Black, who was born in Lynchburg, Virginia, in 1827, and they became the parents of eight children, four sons and four daughters, of whom the following are yet living: Richard T., of this review; W. P., who is a superintendent of one of the departments in the American Tin-Plate Works at Elwood, Indiana; Catherine, the wife of F. A. Wysong, a farmer of Preble county, by whom she has four children; and Elizabeth, the wife of Charles Ecker, of Hamilton, Ohio, by whom she has three children.

Richard T. Acton, whose name introduces this record, pursued his education in the common schools, but attended only about five years. He entered school at the regular age, and when a youth of eleven years began working at the cooper's trade in his father's shop. When thirteen years of age he had the care of the family, during his father's service in the war. He lived at home until he had attained the age of sixteen years, when he started out to work at the cooper's trade on his own account, but after a short time he returned to his old home. Not a week has passed since that time in which he has not visited his parents, the family ties having been strengthened with the passing years. Although he followed his trade in his earlier

life, he had both the taste and talent of a musician, and this love of music was in his mind and heart as he worked with the cooper's mallet. He has embraced every opportunity to advance his musical knowledge, and for four consecutive years he was employed as the leader of a circus band. For the past eleven years he has served as superintendent of music in the public schools of Camden, and under his guidance great progress has been made in his particular line by the students of the city. It is believed that no art has a more ennobling influence upon men than that of music, and it is a language which is understood by all nations. In this regard Mr. Acton has certainly done a great work for his fellow townsmen by inculcating a love and knowledge of music among the younger generation. He is a valued addition to all musical circles and his performances have contributed much to the enjoyment of many public entertainments in the city.

On the 11th of December, 1877, Mr. Acton was united in marriage to Miss Laura Barnet, of Camden, a daughter of Alexander and Sarah Ann (Wesco) Barnet. Her father died October 22, 1859, at the age of thirty-five years, his birth having occurred on the 4th of June, 1824. He left a widow and five small children. Mrs. Barnet afterward became the wife of John Bryant, their marriage being celebrated in 1892. Mrs. Acton has a brother in Washington, Charles C. Barnet, who is engaged in the salmon-canning business. Mr. Acton is a member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows, belonging to both the subordinate lodge and the encampment, and has been elected as a representative to the grand encampment at Lancaster, Ohio, in 1900. In politics he is a stalwart Republican and is a recognized

leader in the ranks of the party. He has served as a member of the city council, and, as before stated, is for the third term filling the office of mayor. His duties of citizenship are ever faithfully performed and no trust reposed in him has ever been betrayed. Both he and his wife are members of the Universalist church. His success in life may be attributed to his strong principles of honor and integrity, his indomitable energy, and his close and assiduous attention to both the principles and details of his business. In manner he is courteous and genial, and his kindliness, worth and fidelity have gained him a very large circle of friends.

SAMUEL COOVERT.

Ex-county commissioner and one of the oldest and most highly respected citizens of Preble county, Mr. Coovert, has spent his entire life here, his birth occurring in Monroe township, April 25, 1826. His father, John Coovert, supposed to have been a native of Delaware, came to Preble county, Ohio, at an early day and entered a tract of government land on section 10, Monroe township, the farm now owned by Jacob Trone. Mr. Coovert made many improvements upon the place, but sold it in 1835 and bought another farm adjoining it on the east. In 1855 he disposed of his property here and moved to Missouri, where he died at the age of seventy-two years. In early life he was a Democrat in politics, but was always a strong Union man, and in 1863, while residing in Missouri, he joined the Republican party. He was well posted on the questions and issues of the day, and was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him. His father was of Dutch and his mother of Irish descent. The mother of our subject,

who bore the maiden name of Kittie Earnest, was also of Irish lineage. She died when Samuel was only six years old, he being next to the youngest of the eight children of the family, four of whom reached adult age. William, the oldest, is still living at the age of eighty-seven years, and makes his home in Newton county, Indiana. Abram is a resident of Oregon. Jane is the widow of Benjamin Steel and a resident of Logansport, Indiana.

Samuel Coovert was reared in his native town and was educated in the log school house so common at that day, with its greased-paper windows, slab seats and huge fire-place. At the age of twelve he started out to earn his own livelihood, and made his home with his brother until sixteen years of age, when he commenced serving a four-years apprenticeship to the blacksmith's trade with a Mr. Orendorf in Monroe township. At the end of that time he opened a shop of his own on section 14, the same township, and conducted the same for about four years.

While engaged in business there Mr. Coovert married Miss Amelia Hendrickson, who was born in Harrison township, Preble county, September 31, 1829, a daughter of Henry and Catherine (Wilt) Hendrickson, natives of Virginia and Pennsylvania, respectively. She was the youngest of their four children, two sons and two daughters, and like her husband was educated in a primitive log schoolhouse. To them were born four children, namely: Elizabeth Jane, the widow of William Slosser and the mother of three living children, Lucretia, Charles and Frank; Martin L., who married Hulda McCoy and has two children, Minnie and Edward; Curtis, who lives at home with his parents; and Samuel J., who married

Ella Hosier, and has four children, Edith, Lonie, Harley and Chloe. All were born in Monroe township, Preble county.

After four years spent in business on section 14, Monroe township, Mr. Coover removed to Scuffletown, Twin township, where he conducted a shop for one year and later successfully engaged in business at Hamburg, Monroe township, for twenty-three years. In the meantime the civil war broke out and he served one year as a member of Company F, Fifth Ohio Cavalry. While working at his trade at Perda, Tennessee, he was injured by a mule he was shoeing, and was soon afterward discharged on account of disability. Returning to his home he engaged in blacksmithing at the old stand until 1875, when he removed to his present farm on section 8, Monroe township, where he has since made his home.

Mr. Coover has always taken an active and influential part in local politics, and being one of the most prominent and popular men of his community, he has been honored with important official positions, the duties of which he has discharged in a most commendable and satisfactory manner. About 1866 he was first elected county commissioner and served as such for three years at that time. In 1878 he was elected to the same office, and at the end of his three-years term was re-elected for the same length of time, making nine years in all. He was chairman of the board the last two terms, and was instrumental in building better roads and bridges throughout the county. From 1869 until 1878 he served as trustee of his township, and has filled many other local offices. He cast his first presidential vote for the Whig candidate in 1852, in 1860 supported Lincoln, and has since been an ardent

Republican. He is an honored member of Judy Shewman Post, No. 2747, G. A. R., of Eldorado, and affiliated with the Independent Order of Odd Fellows for about seven years.

JAMES CARROLL.

The fellow citizens of Mr. Carroll have manifested their confidence in him by electing him to office, and as a member of the board of county commissioners he loyally labored for the interests of his constituents. He is recognized as a farmer of Twin township, his home being on section 8. In Kings county, Ireland, on the 28th of July, 1846, he was born, and he came to the United States in 1849. His parents, James and Margaret (Carroll) Carroll, had but two children, the younger being Mary.

James Carroll, whose name heads this biographical review, was a lad of eleven years when his father emigrated from Ohio to Kansas. He was of a very independent nature and wished to remain in the Buckeye state. Subsequently he made his way to Brennersville, in the fall of 1856, and became an apprentice at the stone-cutter's trade, to B. W. Whipple, with whom he was to serve until he attained his majority. In the fall of 1863, however, he quietly slipped away in order to join the army, his foster father having refused him permission. He enlisted in the service at St. Louis, Missouri, was sent to the front, and on reaching Chattanooga was assigned to duty in the quartermaster's department, in which capacity he served until mustered out at Bellefontaine, Ohio, in 1864. He then returned to Preble county and began work at his trade of stone-cutting in the employ of Mr. Negley, in Twin township. He was thus engaged for two

years, after which he returned to his foster father, with whom he remained until the latter's death in 1878.

In 1871 Mr. Carroll was united in marriage to Miss Laura, a daughter of B. W. Whipple, but the following year his wife died, leaving him with an infant daughter less than a year old. After Mr. Whipple's death Mr. Carroll purchased the old Whipple home and mill where he has since resided. The mill is one of the landmarks in Preble county, being one of the first steam mills erected in this part of the state, the machinery being put in in 1858. Mr. Whipple had become the owner of the property in 1864. After the former's death our subject continued the operation of the mill until 1884, when the dam was washed away and the operation of the gristmill was discontinued, but he still runs the sawmill. He is also the owner of one hundred and ten acres of land and conducts his farm in connection with his other business interests. His daughter is now grown to womanhood and presides over her father's home.

For the past few years Mr. Carroll has been numbered among the office-holders in his section of Preble county. For twelve or fifteen years he served as township trustee and was elected justice of the peace, but after six months' service resigned. In 1891 he was chosen by popular ballot as county commissioner of Preble county, and was re-nominated for a second term, but was defeated. He has served as a member of the school board, and in the various positions which he has filled has discharged his duties with promptness and fidelity. He has always been an earnest Democrat and is ever loyal to the principles of the party.

Socially he is a member of Lanier Lodge, No. 521, I. O. O. F., of West Alexandria,

and of Royal Lodge, No. 320, K. of P., which he joined on its organization. His has been an industrious and enterprising life. He is a man of strong determination and unfaltering purpose, and carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes. He started out in life for himself at the early age of eleven years and whatever success he has achieved is the reward of his own labors. The same loyalty which he displayed when he followed the starry banner on the battle-fields of the south he has ever manifested in all life's relations and the people of Preble county have high regard for him on account of his sterling worth.

JOSEPH S. RAMSEY.

Joseph S. Ramsey, a representative farmer of Israel township, was born December 12, 1838, in the neighborhood where he yet makes his home. The Ramsey family is of Irish lineage and the original American ancestors took up their abode in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, whence representatives of the name went to Rockbridge county, Virginia. William Ramsey, the grandfather of our subject, resided in Kentucky for a year prior to his arrival in Preble county, Ohio, in 1805. When he came to this locality his nearest neighbor resided at College Corner. He was born in 1787 and was twice married, his first union being with Miss Rebecca Miller, also a native of Virginia. They were married in the Old Dominion and Mrs. Ramsey died August 18, 1813, at the age of thirty-six years. By her marriage she had become the mother of four daughters and three sons, but one son died in 1819, at the age of nine years and five months. The father of our subject was the youngest of the family, and was a babe at the time

of his mother's death. The grandfather afterward married Miss Mary Harton, but had no children by that union. He died in 1861, when an octogenarian. His first child, born in 1799, sleeps in the Beechwood cemetery. The journey of the family to Ohio was made with horse teams. The grandfather had but limited capital, but he entered a quarter-section of land and after making good improvements on the property sold it, at a profit. The first corn which he raised was ground into hominy and meal by an ingenious water-power wheel made from a log with an iron pestle on one end, the log being balanced on a pivot so that it operated like a trip hammer. The corn was placed in a mortar, which was made by hollowing out a log, and in that mortar some of his sheep were killed when he was absent. The sheep put their heads into the mortar in order to eat the corn and when the pestle came down the animals' heads were caught and they fell out. The first table which Mr. Ramsey owned was made with a split log or puncheon placed on pegs. He was a man of genius and energy and his excellent ability enabled him to devise many ingenious contrivances which proved of great advantage in carrying on the farm work.

Among his children was Thomas L. Ramsey, who was born in Somers township, Preble county, in 1812. He was reared amid the wild scenes of the frontier and bore his share in the arduous task of developing the farm. He married Miss Jane Steel, about 1831, before he was twenty-one years of age. His wife was born in 1811, and the children that graced their marriage were as follows: William Taylor, a carpenter and mechanic, lives in Monmouth, Illinois, is married and has two sons and one daughter. Mary Ann is the wife of D. A. Gray, at College Corner,

and has five children. Rebecca Jane became the wife of William Caskey and died in Israel township in middle life, leaving three children. Joseph S. is the next of the family. John Knox joined the Union army in 1862 and died in Paducah, Kentucky, in 1863, at the age of twenty-two years, as the result of the hardships of army life and of injuries sustained on the march from Memphis, Tennessee, to Chattanooga. Samuel Miller is a minister of the Reformed Presbyterian church in Los Angeles, California, and the editor of the California Voice, a Prohibitionist paper: he is a graduate of Miami University, Ohio, is married and has one child. Elizabeth A. is the wife of John B. Johnson, of Oxford, Ohio, and by her former marriage to H. L. Cramer, she has two children. Martha A. died at the age of ten years. Thomas Gavin, the youngest of the family, died in childhood. The mother of these children died about 1851, and the father was again married, his second union being with Miss Margaret McCollum, by whom he had seven children, three sons and two daughters reaching mature years. One son, Hugh Henry, was preparing for the ministry as a student in college, when he died, at the age of twenty-two. Nathan L. is a farmer at Cedarville, Greene county, Ohio, and has one son and two daughters. Maggie became the wife of Addison Reid and they have two daughters. Harriot died in early womanhood; and George is a mechanic in Massachusetts.

No event of special importance to our subject occurred during his boyhood and youth. He lived upon his father's farm, became familiar with the work of field and meadow and bore his part in the task of improving the land. During the civil war he and his brother, William Taylor, responded to the

country's call for troops on the 15th of July, 1861, enlisting as privates in the Forty-seventh Ohio Infantry and William rose to the rank of first sergeant. They served for four years and four months, belonging to Company D, Forty-seventh Ohio Infantry, and Mr. Ramsey, of this review, was under command of Captain Wallace. The regiment rendezvoused at Camp Dennis, Ohio, and the first battle in which he participated was at Carnifex Ferry, West Virginia. He also took part in the engagement at Big Soul Mountain in the fall of 1861, and spent the following winter at Gauly Mountain, Virginia. He served under General Cox in the engagement at Louisburg, Virginia, and did much scouting duty in that section. In the winter of 1862 he marched with his command to Vicksburg, aided in digging the canal and participated in the siege of the city, where he was struck by a hand grenade but not seriously wounded. He afterward went to Jackson, Mississippi, was in the battle of Missionary Ridge and then went to Maryville to relieve Burnside in the winter of 1863-4. The command went into camp at Larkinsville, Alabama, and Mr. Ramsey re-enlisted in 1864, and, after thirty days' furlough, rejoined his regiment and participated in the Atlanta campaign. He also marched with Sherman to the sea and at the capture of Fort McAllister was in Hazen's division. He has always had great admiration for General Sherman, believing him one of the most skillful commanders of the war. The troops were shipped to Beaufort, South Carolina, and Mr. Ramsey took part in the battles of Columbia, South Carolina, of Goldsboro and of Raleigh, where he was stationed at the time the news of General Lee's surrender was received. There, too, they learned of the assassination of President

Lincoln. Marching on to Washington, Mr. Ramsey participated in the grand review in that city, thence went to Louisville, Kentucky, and on to Little Rock, Arkansas, where in July, 1865, he received an honorable discharge, being mustered out at Camp Dennison, Ohio, on the 24th of August following. His was a very excellent military record and one of which he has every reason to be proud.

After his return home Mr. Ramsey was married, on Christmas day, 1866, in Israel township, to Miss Sarah Rachel McQuiston, who was born near Hopewell church, January 30, 1843, a daughter of David and Janet (McDill) McQuiston. She is of Scotch descent and an estimable lady, having many warm friends. The children born of this marriage are as follows: Leila is the wife of C. C. Lemon, of Detroit, Michigan, where she is well known and recognized as a woman of strong character and intellectual force. Rolla Roy was graduated in the Bloomington (Indiana) University, where he has taken the degree of M. A. and is now working for the degree of Ph. D. He is also teaching in his *alma mater* and has won prominence as a student and teacher of physics. Arthur is at home with his parents. Mr. Ramsey is a member of the Grand Army of the Republic and in his political views is a stalwart Republican. He has served as a school director, but has never sought or desired public office, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business affairs, in which he has met with creditable success. He is known as one of the enterprising farmers of his community, honorable in all his dealings, trustworthy in every relation of life and as loyal in citizenship as when he followed the old flag upon the battle-fields of the south. He is also a loyal member of the

United Presbyterian church of Morning Sun, Ohio, where they sing the good old Psalms of David.

C. F. BROOKE, JR.

Prominent in the business, social and political circles of Eaton, and highly esteemed for his many admirable characteristics, Mr. Brooke certainly deserves representation in this volume. He was born in Cincinnati, Ohio, on the 21st of March, 1857, and is a representative of one of the old families of Virginia. The paternal grandfather, John C. Brooke, on leaving his home in Rockingham county, Virginia, took up his abode in Warren county, Ohio, on a farm, afterward removing to Preble county and later to Eaton, where he lived until his death. He died of cholera at the home of his son, C. F. Brooke, in Cincinnati, Ohio, in 1866. He had been living in Warren county, however, for some time prior to his death. The maternal grandfather of our subject was James B. Finley, a prominent Indian missionary whose life was devoted to work among the red men of Kentucky in an early day. He wrote a number of books and was a devout Christian gentleman whose influence was most marked and beneficial.

C. F. Brooke, Sr., the father of our subject, was numbered among Ohio's nativesons, his birth having occurred near Waynesville, in Warren county. There he was reared to manhood and in early life he engaged in teaching school. He afterward lived in Germantown, Ohio, for some years. He was a hatter by trade and after following that pursuit for some time, taught school at West Alexandria, Preble county. In 1850 he went to Cincinnati, where for a number of years he occupied the important position

of superintendent of the Bradstreet Mercantile Agency, his territory being the western states. While his parents resided in Cincinnati, the birth of our subject occurred there in 1857. He began his education in the public schools there, and when ten years of age accompanied his parents on their removal to Eaton, where he continued his studies. In 1873 he matriculated in the Ohio Wesleyan University at Delaware, and later he attended Pierce's Union Business College in Philadelphia, being thus well qualified for the practical and responsible duties of life. In 1878 he accepted the position of bookkeeper in the employ of the Excelsior School Furniture Company in Cincinnati. In 1879 he became a teller in the First National Bank in Eaton, serving in that capacity until 1883, when the cashier died and he was appointed to fill the vacancy. In July, 1884, the bank went into voluntary liquidation, soon after the Farmers & Citizens' Bank was organized, since which time Mr. Brooke has been its cashier. Its growth and success is due in no small measure to his business ability, his untiring efforts, his accommodating manner and his courteous treatment of the patrons of the bank. He is also the president of the Eaton Telephone Company, which purchased the plant of the old company, doubled its facilities and is now doing a very rapidly increasing business. It is one of the leading enterprises of the town.

In his political affiliations Mr. Brooke is a staunch Democrat, taking an active interest in the questions of the day and doing all in his power to promote the growth and insure the success of the party. He was for some years the chairman of the Democratic executive committee of the county and his labors were very effective in promoting the interests of the political organization with which

he is allied. He was offered the nomination for congress in the fourth congressional district of Ohio, then largely Democratic, in 1890, but refused to accept it. He was also offered the nomination for state senator in 1897 and again refused the proffered honor. A valued member of the Knights of Pythias fraternity, he has filled all the offices of the local lodge, has been very active in its work and has served as a representative to the grand lodge. He joined the organization in Eaton when it was very weak, having a membership of only forty, but largely through his efforts it has become a very strong society, with a membership of two hundred and sixty. He is the deputy grand chancellor of the district comprising Warren, Preble and Butler counties, and with a thorough understanding of the benevolent principles of the order he labors earnestly for their promulgation, and his life exemplifies the teachings of the fraternity. One of the leading social organizations of Eaton is known as the Gridiron Club, of which Mr. Brooke is a prominent member and one of its chief cooks. He has been the president of the club since its organization in 1896. The membership is limited to fifteen, and at their weekly banquets no townspeople are ever invited; but many invited guests from a distance are entertained weekly at its meetings, and the club on this account has a wide reputation.

On the 28th of August, 1888, Mr. Brooke was happily married to Miss Mary V. Gould, a daughter of L. G. Gould, who is the editor of the Eaton Democrat. They enjoy the hospitality of the best homes of the city and their own pleasant residence is the center of a cultured society circle. They are noted for the many social gatherings given at their home, and are spoken of as prince and queen of entertainers.

JOHN G. UNGER.

The sturdy characteristics of the German race are manifested in Mr. Unger, who displayed in his life work the enterprising spirit and methods of perseverance so common among the people of the fatherland. He was born in the dukedom of Brunswick, near Bremen, on the 14th of May, 1832, in a family of six children. His parents were John H. and Senia (Walters) Unger. His father was born in Emptinghausen in the dukedom of Brunswick, near Bremen, about 1803, there grew to manhood and was married, making his home in that locality until 1852, when he came with his family to the new world. They made the voyage across the Atlantic to New Orleans and there took passage on a river steamer for Cincinnati. While *en route* for the latter city the father was taken ill and died soon after reaching Cincinnati. The family, however, proceeded on their way to Preble county, where John G. Unger had located about a year previously, his home being near West Alexandria. The mother of our subject was born in Feltinghausen, about 1811, and died in 1878. Her last years were spent in the home of her son John. In the family were six children, five of whom are yet living, namely: John G.; Harmon, a farmer residing at Lexington, Ohio; Henreich, deceased; John H., a retired farmer of Lewisburg, Ohio; Detrich, who carries on agricultural pursuits in Harrison township, Preble county; and Margaret, wife of John H. Glander, a farmer of Lanier township.

John G. Unger had but limited educational privileges in his youth, for his parents were poor and he was early forced to earn his own livelihood. At the age of fourteen he began work as a farm hand and was thus

employed for four years in Germany. In 1851 he resolved to seek a home in America, believing that his opportunities for advancement would be increased thereby. Accordingly he crossed the Atlantic, arriving in Baltimore after a voyage of thirty-five days, and then made his way to Cincinnati. After staying there for about a week he went to Eaton and from there came to West Alexandria. On arriving here he saw a sign which informed him that a German was living at that place by the name of A. Schlingman, who befriended him and aided him in finding employment. With fifty cents in his pocket he made his way to a point near Enterprise, where he found employment, given him by Henry Eidson, who was then the owner of the farm upon which our subject now resides.

Mr. Unger worked here for about four years, and on the expiration of that period he and his brother Harmon began renting land. They engaged in farming, their mother keeping house for them. In 1858 they purchased ten acres of land and a small house adjoining the Eidson farm, and there the family took up their abode. During the following year Mr. Eidson offered his farm for sale and Mr. Unger and his brother Harmon purchased the place in 1860. The farm comprised one hundred and twenty-two acres. They gave a mortgage on the farm, but as the years passed they were enabled to pay off all indebtedness as the result of their industry and strong determination. Some years later the property was divided between the two brothers, and afterward, as Harmon desired to purchase land in Lexington, our subject purchased his brother's share and became the sole owner of the place where he was first employed. He added to the property as his financial resources increased, and

at one time it comprised two hundred acres, but of this he has donated some to the Cincinnati Northern Railroad and sold some to Ingomar Station, so that it is now one hundred and ninety-five acres in extent. In 1888, in partnership with H. S. Glander, he built a warehouse in Ingomar. This they rented for three years, but since that time Mr. Unger has occupied it and is successfully engaged in the grain business there in connection with his son-in-law, H. G. Durkle. He rents the tobacco warehouse, which was built the year following the erection of the other one. He has been largely interested in the cultivation of tobacco, wheat and corn, and he formerly raised and sold some hogs, although he did not make a specialty of raising stock. For thirty years or more he has manufactured sorghum molasses. An active business man, he has through his well directed efforts gained a very comfortable competence and is now a retired farmer.

On the 22d of November, 1862, occurred the marriage of Mr. Unger and Miss Anna Hattie Glander, a daughter of John Harmon Glander. She was born in Tettinghausen, in the dukedom of Brunswick, Germany, December 13, 1837, and with her parents came to America in 1855, the family locating in Lanier township, Preble county. Four children have been born of their union: Mada; Henry H., who is operating the home farm and married Altha Shafer, by whom he has one child, Wanda Estella; Anna Rebecca, the wife of H. G. Durkle, a grain merchant and station agent at Ingomar, by whom she has three children—Grace E., Ethel and John Howard; and Ella, the wife of John H. Ehler, a merchant at West Alexandria, by whom she had one son, Luther Lawrence. Mr. Unger is an active member of the Lutheran church and for many years has served

therein as elder. His wife and children are also members of the same church. In politics he is rather liberal in his views, but usually votes with the Democracy. His son, Henry H., is now land appraiser of Lanier township, to which office he was elected in November, 1899, for a ten-years term. Mr. Unger is a good man, a representative citizen, a prosperous farmer and a Christian gentleman. His success has resulted entirely from his unfaltering purpose, his marked energy and his sound business judgment, and to-day he is recognized among the most substantial residents of Preble county.

THOMAS FENTON.

Thomas Fenton follows agricultural pursuits in Israel township and has attained a fair degree of success, acquiring a comfortable competence through his unflagging industry and unfaltering perseverance. He was born in Butler county, Ohio, February 2, 1843, and is a grandson of Stacy Fenton, a Baptist minister, whose birth occurred in New Jersey. Becoming a preacher, he carried the "glad tidings of great joy" to many congregations in New Jersey and Ohio and died in Butler county, of the latter state, when about sixty-five years of age. On coming to the west he entered a half-section of land, which remained in the possession of the family until 1878, and forty acres of the tract is still owned by John Fenton, a brother of our subject. Stacy Fenton, Jr., the father of our subject, was born in Maryland, in June, 1808, and accompanied his parents on their various removals through the days of his boyhood and youth.

In Ross township, Butler county, about 1833, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary

Simpson, who was born in Maine, in 1816, and when a little maiden of six years was brought to the west by her parents, the family locating near Mount Carmel, Indiana. Eight children blessed the union of Mr. and Mrs. Fenton, four sons and four daughters; but one daughter died in infancy. The others are: Mary, the wife of Henry Walling, a farmer of Edgar county, Illinois, by whom she has three children; Thomas, of this review; John, a capitalist of Oxford, Butler county, Ohio, who has one son, Harry A., now a prominent lawyer of Indianapolis; James, who owns four hundred acres of land in Edgar county, Illinois, where he resides with his wife and two sons; Amanda, the wife of Henry Hall; Cordelia, the wife of George Anthony, of Cicero, Indiana, by whom she has one son; and Ella, the wife of John Shafer. The father of the above named children was called to his final rest in 1890, and the mother passed away in Illinois, November 10, 1895, while visiting her children in that state. Their remains were interred side by side in Scipio cemetery. They began their domestic life in limited circumstances, but their united efforts enabled them to acquire a comfortable competence and to assist their children in getting a start in life. In every relation they were true to the trusts reposed in them and were recognized as people of the highest respectability who well merited the regard which was uniformly given them.

Thomas Fenton pursued his education in the common schools, which he attended at intervals until seventeen years of age, but his entire attendance probably did not amount to more than three years. Reading, experience and observation, supplemented by an observing eye and retentive memory, however, have made him a well informed

man. At the age of twenty he left home to secure work as a farm hand by the month in Franklin county, Indiana, receiving thirteen dollars per month in compensation for his services. During the war he was paid thirty dollars per month. He worked for five years as a farm hand and then engaged in farming on his own account for one year prior to his marriage, which important event in his life occurred on the 20th of December, 1869, Miss Catherine Abrams becoming his wife. She is a native of Franklin county, Indiana, born on the 1st of August, 1844, and a daughter of Griffin Abrams, now deceased. Her father was a farmer, who also operated a sawmill. In his family were three sons and three daughters. Mr. and Mrs. Fenton began their domestic life upon the William Lovett farm in Franklin county, Indiana, which property our subject rented for eleven years. His industry and economy during that time enabled him to acquire some capital, and in 1882 he purchased eighty acres of land in Israel township, Preble county, for which he paid seventy dollars per acre. Upon the place is a good residence and large barn, and Mr. Fenton erected other necessary and substantial outbuildings, so that he has ample shelter for grain, stock and farm implements. His property is well improved and is now one of the most desirable farms of the neighborhood, its well tilled fields yielding to him a good return for the care and labor he bestows upon them. As do most of the people of this section of the country, he makes a specialty of the cultivation of corn and wheat, realizing from four to eight hundred bushels of wheat and from eighteen hundred to two thousand bushels of corn annually. He is also engaged in the raising of hogs, of the Poland China breed, and sells about fifty

head annually. He works four horses in the operation of his farm, has from ten to twelve head of cattle and a flock of fine Shropshire sheep. The latest improved machinery is used in the cultivation of his farm. He has his own feed mill, a fine orchard of apples and other fruit and in fact all modern accessories and conveniences are found upon his place.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Fenton has been blessed with two children, but Ora died at the age of twenty-four years. She was a good student and a few weeks later would have graduated in the Richmond Business College. Otho, now a youth of seventeen years, is attending school at College Corner. Mr. Fenton is a Democrat in his political views, but has never sought or desired office, preferring to devote his energies to his business cares, in which he has met with creditable success. He and his wife attend the Presbyterian church of College Corner and their lives are in harmony with their professions. Mr. Fenton certainly deserves great credit for what he has achieved. With limited educational privileges and no other advantages to aid him in his business career, he started out in the humble capacity of a farm hand and has steadily worked his way upward, undeterred by the obstacles and difficulties in his path. His resolution has enabled him to overcome these, and to-day he is accounted one of the well-to-do and representative farmers of his community.

JEROME W. WOOLERY.

Among the progressive and enterprising farmers of Harrison township none are better known or more highly respected than the gentleman whose name introduces this review. His home is on section 28, where he

owns and operates forty acres of well improved and highly cultivated land.

Mr. Woolery was born on the 20th of July, 1841, in Westminster, Carroll county, Maryland, of which county his parents, Christopher John and Matilda (Beaver) Woolery, were also natives. His great-grandparents on both sides are supposed to have been born in Germany and came to the new world prior to the Revolutionary war, locating in Maryland. His grandfathers, Jacob Stofel Woolery and John Beaver, were both soldiers of the war of 1812, and the latter was a prominent man and large stock-dealer of Carroll county, driving his stock in those early days to Baltimore, Maryland, and Pittsburg, Pennsylvania. The mother of our subject died when he was about seventeen years of age, but the father, who was born in 1818, lived to the ripe old age of seventy-two years. He was a farmer by occupation and a Democrat in politics prior to the civil war, when he became a staunch Republican. During that conflict he served as a detective and provost marshal. Religiously he was a member of the Methodist Protestant church, served as a class-leader, and took a very active part in church work.

Jerome W. Woolery is the second in order of birth in a family of ten children, seven of whom grew to manhood and womanhood. He was reared and educated in his native county and remained at home until March, 1861. He then went to New Jersey, where he operated a truck farm belonging to his uncle, Nimrod Woolery, who was the judge of the orphans' court of Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and while in New Jersey, October 15, 1861, he enlisted for the government in Company K, Ninth New Jersey Volunteer Infantry Sharpshooters, as a private. He was in the service for three

years and three months, and participated in twenty-nine battles. He received three slight wounds and was ill for a short time, but was with his company in every campaign with one exception, and in that no fighting was done. He was honorably discharged at Trenton, New Jersey, in 1864, and returned to Carroll county, Maryland, where he turned his attention to farming.

On the 11th of September, 1865, Mr. Woolery was united in marriage to Miss Ellen Orendorff, who also was born in Westminster, Maryland, March 29, 1846, a daughter of David and Rebecca (Reese) Orendorff. She was the fourth child in their family of twelve children, eight of whom reached years of maturity. To Mr. and Mrs. Woolery were born the following children: Tabitha E., now the wife of Charles A. Burris, of Montgomery county, Ohio; Mary E. F., the wife of William Haines, of the same county; Elias Edwin, who married Anna M. Parks and lived in Harrison township, Preble county; Ada M., the wife of Stephen Welbaum, of Preble county; Dora R., Hattie L., and Benjamin H., all at home; and Jerome W. and Laura B., who each died at the age of one year, six months and five days.

Mr. Woolery continued his residence in his native state until 1880, when he removed to Taylorsburg, Montgomery county, Ohio, but later spent a year in Miami county, after which he returned to Montgomery county, this time locating near Phillipsburg. He next came to West Baltimore, Preble county, where he made his home about eight years, and at the end of that time purchased the farm on section 28, Harrison township, which has since been his home. Throughout his active business life he has followed general farming.

In political sentiment he is a Republican and has efficiently served as a school director in his district. He is an active member of the Methodist Episcopal church of Lewisburg, of which he has been a trustee many years, and also belongs to Parmalee Horn Post, No. 622, G. A. R., of Lewisburg, of which he has been the chaplain eight years; Libanus Lodge, No. 80, F. & A. M.; Ithaca Lodge, No. 677, I. O. O. F.; and the Daughters of Rebekah, to which Mrs. Woolery also belongs.

ROBERT J. BROWN.

Robert J. Brown makes his home on the farm where his birth occurred, near Morning Sun, and is a representative of one of the old families of the community. He pursued his elementary education in the village and afterward enjoyed superior advantages in the Miami University, at Oxford, Ohio, at which institution he was graduated in 1862. Throughout the period of his youth he remained at home, and on the 13th of May, 1864, prompted by a spirit of patriotism, he volunteered for four months' service in Company A, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, in which he held the rank of corporal. He took part in the skirmish at Cumberland, Maryland, but was mostly engaged on guard duty. He is now engaged in agricultural pursuits on the old home farm, which comprises one hundred and sixty-three acres. The property has always been in possession of the family since the original parchment deed was conveyed by the government to the purchaser. It bears date December 30, 1811, and is signed by James Madison, then the President of the United States, and by James Monroe, secretary of state. Mr. Brown and his family have

moved but once and that was when they left the old house in which the parents began their domestic life after their marriage. They took up their abode in their new residence in 1891, which is situated on the farm. The old home is now occupied by tenants and is kept in good condition. Mr. Brown follows mixed farming, as did his father, who at one time was the owner of eight good farms, four in Indiana, two in Iowa and two in Ohio. These he sold, however, some years prior to his death.

On the 20th of October, 1875, Mr. Brown was united in marriage to Miss Vinolia A. Shaw, a daughter of Robert and Marietta (Robertson) Shaw. The father was born in Pennsylvania, in 1830, and in September, 1862, during the civil war, enlisted, becoming a private in the ranks of the Thirtieth Regiment of Iowa Volunteers. He died August 9, 1862, of typhoid fever, which he contracted in the rifle pits before Vicksburg, and his remains were interred there. After the death of her first husband Mrs. Shaw was again married, becoming the wife of Nathan Sloan, who died in 1882, since which time she has resided with her daughter, Mrs. Brown. Our subject and his wife lost one daughter, Helen, who died at the age of five months. Their only living child is Ethel E., who is now a student in Monmouth College, of Monmouth, Illinois. Mr. Brown is a Republican in his political affiliations and he and his family are members of the United Presbyterian church.

ELIJAH FIELD.

Elijah Field, who carries on farming in Somers township, was born in Monmouth county, New Jersey, June 3, 1852. His father, Charles R. Field, was born August 17,

1822, on the farm where the grandfather of our subject was reared from the time he was eight years of age. The father bore the name of Elijah Field and was born December 19, 1793, while the grandfather, Benjamin Field, was born June 21, 1771. He was the son of Elijah and Mary Field, the former born June 24, 1739. His death occurred in New Jersey, April 28, 1828. This record is obtained from an old family Bible which was published over one hundred years ago and is printed in the old style of literature, with the long s. It was purchased about 1817, but belongs to the first edition that was dedicated fully and sacredly to King James I, of England. Benjamin Field, the grandfather of our subject, died November 15, 1826. His wife, who bore the maiden name of Sarah Robbins, was born April 6, 1774, and their first child was Elijah Field. This worthy couple reared but three of their seven children, two daughters and one son. Benjamin Field had but one son and one daughter and the latter never married. Elijah Field was married November 7, 1821, to Miss Lydia Hendrickson, and they had two children: Charles R., who was born August 17, 1822; and Harriet Ann, who was born November 2, 1829.

Charles R. Field, the father of our subject, married Mary Ann Miller, of Monmouth county, New Jersey, who was born September 22, 1825. Their marriage occurred December 4, 1845. Her parents were Thomas and Tabitha (Britton) Miller, and they had ten children, eight sons and two daughters, nine of whom reached mature years and are still living, with the exception of Mary Emma, who died at the age of twenty-five. The members of the family who still survive are Anna M., the wife of John Chamberlain; George R.; Edward B.;

Elijah; Thomas; Charles B.; Abraham M., who is operating the old home farm of two hundred acres; and William H. All of these children reside in New Jersey near the old homestead and have small families averaging two children each. The mother survived the father some years and died in 1895, at the age of seventy. The grandfather and his wife died when eighty years of age, the former on his eightieth birthday. All were buried in New Jersey in what is known as the East Branch Quaker churchyard, the grandfather having been a member of that church.

Elijah Field, of whom we write, obtained a good common school education and was reared amid the refining influences of a good home. He spent his youth upon the farm, remaining with his parents until twenty-eight years of age, when he was married on the 6th of November, 1878, to Miss Mary Chamberlin, of Warren county, Ohio, a daughter of Stephen J. and Nancy T. (Anderson) Chamberlin. Her father was a native of New Jersey, a farmer by occupation, who died near Franklin, Ohio, in 1881, at the age of sixty-nine years, leaving a widow and six children. Mrs. Chamberlin still resides on the home farm in Warren county.

Mr. Field resided near Franklin, Ohio, for three years, and in 1881 came to Preble county, taking up his abode upon their present farm in Somers township in March, 1882. This farm comprises one hundred and thirty-four acres of choice land, the greater part of which is under a high state of cultivation and yields a good return for the enterprising efforts of the owner, who is a progressive agriculturist. In addition to his general farming he engages in the breeding of blooded stock, much of which is registered, in-

cluding Hereford cattle and Duroc Jersey hogs. He is the only man in the county raising Hereford cattle. He has on hand from ten to twenty-five head of registered hogs and has sold specimens as high as one hundred dollars per head. He made one sale of seven for seven hundred dollars. He breeds six or eight sows, with two males. He has raised about sixty head of hogs annually, which bring him from ten to twenty-five dollars per head. His methods of farming and stock-raising are progressive and enterprising and in his business dealings he is honorable, enjoying the warm regard of those with whom he is brought in contact.

Mr. and Mrs. Field have two children: Stephen J., a youth of seventeen years; and Mary A., a maiden of thirteen, who was named for her grandmother. Theirs is one of the most attractive and convenient homes in the locality, having been thoroughly remodeled inside and out. Porches have been built, steam-heating apparatus has been put in, and everything is modern and convenient.

Mr. Field was reared in the faith of the Whig party, was afterward a Republican and is now independent in politics. He neither seeks nor desires office, preferring to give his attention to his business. His wife is a member of the Baptist church. He belongs to the Wayne County Farmers' Club. The first and preliminary meeting for this association was held at his home in January, 1893, and the club was organized at the home of Josiah Flory on the 15th of February following, the members being Martin Sayler, F. Lantis, Josiah Flory, Richard Francis, R. C. Pugh, Elijah Field, Samuel Young, W. E. Murphy, W. K. Swan, Clayton Pugh, who has since resigned; and since the organization J. E. Anderson and G. W.

Hanger have become members. Mr. Field was its first president, filling that position in 1893, 1894 and 1895. He is one of the wide-awake, progressive, active and energetic agriculturists of his community and his name is closely associated with advancement along agricultural and stock-raising lines. He is held in high esteem for his sterling worth, his reliable business methods and his fidelity to the duties of citizenship and in this volume he well deserves mention.

JAMES SCOTT BROWN.

James Scott Brown is a worthy representative of the agricultural interests of Israel township. He was born near Morning Sun, November 23, 1830, and is a son of James Brown and a grandson of Nathan Brown, both natives of South Carolina. He is the second child and son in a family of twelve children, of whom four sons and four daughters reached years of maturity.

Mr. Brown of this review remained at home upon the farm and received an ordinary district-school education. He has always followed the pursuit to which he was reared. He was married October 11, 1859, to Julia A. Robertson, a native of Spring Hill, Decatur county, Indiana, born in July, 1841. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. David Robertson, were married in South Carolina, and removed to Iowa in 1846. Our subject and his wife located on their present farm of one hundred and fifty-eight acres, which had been purchased by his father in 1852. They located here in 1859, and here they have reared their nine children, namely: William M., a physician now in the mining regions of Idaho, whither he went from Omaha, Nebraska, began his practice in the latter state and six years later went to the

northwest. He was educated at Oxford, Ohio, in Monmouth, Illinois, and Cincinnati. He married Emma Sherman, who was born on the Hudson, in New York, and they have two daughters. J. Clayton Robertson, the second son, resides on the old home property. He wedded Mary Edna Gilmer and they have one son and one daughter. Bertha E. is the wife of C. C. McCreary, and they have one living daughter. N. Stanley is a commercial traveler residing in Omaha, Nebraska. J. Arthur Scott went to the west in 1898 for his health, leaving the Xenia, Ohio, Theological Seminary, where he was then pursuing a course of study. Ina M., Edith Etta and Lois Julia are at home, and Oliver Elliott died at the age of six years.

During the civil war Mr. Brown manifested his loyalty to the government by enlisting, in 1864, in response to the call for one-hundred-day men. He joined Company A, One Hundred and Fifty-sixth Ohio Infantry, of which he was a lieutenant before the call. He went to the front as a sergeant, for on joining the United States service all of the officers resigned and their regiment was reorganized. Upon his return Mr. Brown resumed farming and is regarded as one of the enterprising agriculturists of the community. Wheat and corn are his leading crops. He rotates his crops, planting his corn on clover sod and then raises one or two crops of wheat, after which he "seeds it down." He harvests from six to fifteen hundred bushels of wheat annually and has about thirty or forty acres planted with corn, which averages fifty bushels to the acre. He follows progressive methods of farming and his enterprising efforts have secured to him a comfortable competence.

In his political views Mr. Brown is a Republican and gives an earnest and active

support to the party. He and his family are members of the United Presbyterian church, and he belongs to that class of enterprising citizens who withhold their support from no measure or movement which they believe will prove of public benefit. His life has been quietly passed, yet his history lacks not that interest which is ever found in the record of the man who is true to his duty, to himself, his neighbor and his country.

NATHAN L. RAMSEY.

The excellent farm which is owned by Nathan L. Ramsey is pleasantly located on section 14, Israel township, not far from the village of Morning Sun. This is the old Ramsey homestead, a place endeared to him through the associations of his boyhood as well as his later years. He was born on this farm sixty-nine years ago, his natal day being April 30, 1830. His father, George Ramsey, was born in Rockbridge county, Virginia, January 21, 1801, and in 1806 he was brought to Preble county by his parents, William and Martha (Ochletree) Ramsey. The grandfather was born in Ireland, in 1749, and in early life crossed the broad Atlantic to the new world, taking up his abode in Virginia, whence he emigrated to Kentucky and in 1806 to Ohio, settling on section 14, Israel township, Preble county. He was twice married, his second wife being Martha Ochletree, who was born in Virginia in 1769. He died upon the old homestead here in 1837, in his ninety-first year, and she passed away in 1850. They had seven children, but only one is now living, the venerable David Ramsey, of Fair Haven, now in his eighty-ninth year. He was the youngest of the family and has attained a greater age than any of the others, although

some of the other members of the family lived to be octogenarians. By his first marriage, which was to Miss Lackey, the grandfather had eight children. William Ramsey and his second wife were laid to rest in the beautiful Hopewell cemetery, where many other representatives of the family are also sleeping. William and Nathan Ramsey, two of his sons by his first marriage, came to Ohio the year before their father and made a little clearing in the woods on section 14, Israel township, and then returned to Kentucky. The next year the grandfather and his brother, John Ramsey, came to the Buckeye state, and the latter located near Pleasant Run, in Hamilton county, Ohio. For two years past the Ramseys have held a family reunion, at which have been present about one hundred and fifty representatives of the name.

George Ramsey was a little lad of five summers when he came with his parents to Preble county, and amid the wild scenes of the frontier he was reared. He knew what it was to aid in the arduous task of developing new land and to live in a little log cabin; but, though there were many hard trials and hardships to be borne, there were also many pleasures to be enjoyed that are not known at the present day. He married Miss Martha Ramsey, a distant relative. She was born in Hamilton county, Ohio, May 4, 1806, and their marriage occurred in 1826. They were always farming people, whose lives were quietly passed and whose sterling characteristics won them the confidence and good will of all with whom they were associated. They became the parents of nine children, but one daughter died at the age of eleven months, and another, Esther Maria, died in her fifteenth year. Their eldest son, Asa Harvey, was a United Presbyterian minis-

ter. He had preached but four sermons after leaving college when he was stricken with consumption, that dread disease terminating his life in his twenty-eighth year. He was a man of strong intellectual force, a graduate of two colleges and was well qualified for an important life work. The six living children of the family are Eliza A., the wife of John C. Ramsey, of Iroquois county, Illinois, by whom she has three children: Nathan L., of this review; John M., who is living in Israel township, has five children; Mrs. Lucy Ann Bailey, a widow who resides near Mulberry, Indiana, and has one son; William H., a retired farmer of Peoria, Illinois, who has had three children, two yet living; and George S., a retired farmer, making his home in Onarga, Illinois, who has one daughter. He is the youngest of the family and is fifty-six years of age.

Nathan L. Ramsey, of this sketch, received a common school education and throughout the period of his youth assisted in the operation of the home farm, performing his share of the work of field and meadow. His father died in his fifty-eighth year, and Mr. Ramsey remained at home to care for his mother until her death in 1874. He did not marry until after she passed away, but on the 22d of June, 1876, he was joined in wedlock to Miss Mary E. Calderwood, of Middleport, Ohio. She was born in Cincinnati, in 1848, and lived in that city until eight years of age. Her father, Andrew Calderwood, married a Miss Thornburn, and both parents are now deceased. The mother died at the age of forty-five years, leaving seven children. The father afterward married Miss Agnes Fords, and they became the parents of four children. Of this family three sons and seven daughters reached mature years and all are yet

living, with the exception of Robert. Unto Mr. and Mrs. Ramsey have been born three children: George A., who assists his father in the operation of the home farm; Nathan Harvey, a student in the Richmond Business College; and Martha Elizabeth, a most estimable young lady, whose death at the age of seventeen years came as a great blow to her parents and brothers, and she was mourned throughout the community by her many friends.

Mr. Ramsey is regarded as one of the leading farmers of his section of the county. He believes in keeping the soil in good condition by frequent seeding to clover and by a generous use of fertilizers, such as are produced upon the farm and also those which are handled in commerce. He owns one hundred and fifty acres of valuable land, a rich prairie tract upon which he raises between ten and fifteen hundred bushels of corn annually and five hundred bushels of wheat, together with some oats. He always has a large pasturage, which gives the land a rest. Of this farm eighty acres once belonged to his grandfather and the original deed or patent from the government is still in possession of the family. He also owned eighty acres near Hopewell church, but sold that to his brother and paid a liberal price for the old homestead, which to him is the dearest spot on earth. He uses four horses in the operation of his land, has some good cattle and a flock of fine and highbred Cotswold sheep. His swine, however, have been the source of the greatest profit to him and he annually sells many head of fine hogs, weighing between two and three hundred pounds each. He is especially proud of his flock of sheep and his good poultry, as he has every reason to be. He makes a specialty of the raising of Light Brahmas of

pure blood, and upon his place may be seen some of the best specimens of poultry to be found anywhere in the country. All of the improvements of the model farm are found upon the place, and in his business methods Mr. Ramsey is systematic, progressive and practical.

He holds to the Democratic faith, and though living in a strong Republican township, he has served for eighteen years as highway commissioner, and the good roads seen are an indication of his faithful performance of his duty. His entire life having been passed in Israel township, he is widely known in the community, and the fact that many of his friends are numbered among those who have been acquainted with him from boyhood is an indication that his career has ever been an honorable and upright one.

ALFRED JOHNSON.

Alfred Johnson is a retired farmer of Gratis township, and his life's labors have been crowned with a high degree of success, which is the merited reward of his earnest toil and resolute purpose. He was born August 31, 1837, on his father's farm, near the village of Winchester, a son of Jacob Johnson, one of the pioneer settlers of Preble county, who moved to this locality from Washington county, Indiana, in 1832. He was born there in 1809 and during his infancy he lost his father, after which he became a foster son of Samuel Cosh, a shoemaker, of whom he learned his trade, living with him until he had attained his majority. He received a common school education and followed shoemaking in Winchester for two years, when there were but two houses in the village. He then purchased one hundred acres of wild land and later added another

tract of one hundred acres. He cleared about one hundred and fifty acres of this, after which he bought ninety-nine acres, all of which he owned at the time of his death, which occurred on the 28th of June, 1891, when he was eighty-two years of age. He was married in his native state on the 6th of June, 1830, to Eliza Snively, and two sons were born to them ere they removed to Ohio, namely: William Henry, who died in the Buckeye state in early childhood; and John Henry, who also died in early life. The other children were natives of this state and were as follows: Mary, who died in early girlhood; Alfred Hiram, a farmer of Gratis township; Levi, who is living on the old homestead of two hundred acres; and David who made his home with Hiram. The mother was born July 24, 1809, and died December 7, 1880. The parents began their domestic life in limited circumstances but by well directed industry they accumulated a fine property, and their upright lives gained to them the respect of all with whom they came in contact.

Alfred Johnson, of this review, with his brothers and sisters, received the usual district-school privileges, and as he was the eldest son he early began work upon the home farm, and until two years ago was actively connected with agriculture. His life has indeed been an honorable and upright one and marked by untiring industry and perseverance. He was married June 6, 1861, to Miss Mary Jane Trout, whose birth occurred October 12, 1838, in Lanier township, Preble county, her parents being Jacob and Elizabeth (Bowman) Trout. They were both natives of Rockingham county, Virginia, where their marriage was celebrated March 18, 1830. The father was born March 22, 1801, and the mother's

birth occurred July 11, 1809. Mrs. Johnson is descended from two prominent and highly respected old Virginia families. At his death her father left to his widow five hundred and forty acres of choice land, contained in two fine farms, and much of this is still in the possession of the family. He was of German descent, and his parents, who were born in the fatherland, died in Virginia. He possessed many of the sterling characteristics of that nationality—the resolute purpose, unflagging industry and unfaltering perseverance. After making a prospecting tour to Ohio on horseback he purchased two hundred and twenty acres of land in Lanier township and then returned to Virginia for his wife, and in October, 1830, started with her in a wagon drawn by two horses for the new home in the Buckeye state. They brought with them the necessary clothing and bedding and three good cows, and after a tedious journey of three weeks arrived at their destination on the 3d of November.

In the summer of 1830 Mr. Johnson's father came on a prospecting tour to Preble county, making the journey on horseback, and purchased two hundred acres of land in Lanier township, which is still owned by the subject of this sketch and occupied by the latter's son and daughter. Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have led very active and useful lives, being people of great industry and energy. In 1876 our subject purchased a farm of one hundred and sixty acres from Christian Eby, paying four thousand dollars down and giving his note for the remaining five thousand dollars. He offered also to give a mortgage, but Mr. Eby said that the note was good enough, a fact which indicated the confidence which was reposed in Mr. Johnson by those who knew him well. For three

years our subject owned and operated a saw-mill in Lanier township and for sixteen years he operated a threshing machine during the busy season, often working night and day. His life has been one of unusual activity and his labors have been crowned with a high degree of success, which is well merited. For two years past, however, he has largely rested from his labors and his retirement is surely deserved. He has upon his farm a fine dwelling, good barns and all modern improvements. One large barn is in dimensions one hundred by forty-eight feet, and he has placed many rods of tiling upon the farm, and he certainly has one of the best developed properties in this section of the state.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Johnson have been born three children: William Henry, born July 16, 1862, and died at the age of twenty-four years, two months and twenty-four days; Lenora Elizabeth, who is the wife of Ira Flory and with their son Albert is residing upon the old homestead; Minford, who is also following agricultural pursuits on the old home farm. He married Clara B. Glanders and they have one daughter, Meby, a child of five years.

In his political affiliations Mr. Johnson is a Democrat and does all in his power to promote the growth and to insure the success of his party. He has served as a member of the city council, was a member of the board of health for six years and in 1899 was elected a justice of the peace, but would not qualify. He has frequently been called upon to serve as appraiser, has been selected by the board as road commissioner to locate roads and bridges, has frequently served on juries in Eaton, and was the township trustee of Lanier township for fourteen years. On the 23d of November, 1892, he took up his abode

in the village of Winchester, but still owns three hundred and eighty-two acres in his two farms.

Every trust reposed in him has been faithfully performed, his life has ever been upright and honorable and unqualified confidence is reposed in him by those who know him. He well merits the respect and esteem of his fellow men and deserves great credit for what he has accomplished in business. His example should serve as a source of inspiration to all who are forced to begin life as he was, without capital or influential friends to aid him.

WINBURN JENKINS.

Winburn Jenkins is now living a retired life upon his farm of eighty-three and a half acres on section 6, Israel township. He is an octogenarian, well preserved, and the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded old age are extended to him by all who know him. Poverty and many trials and difficulties have beset his path, but he has at length wrested fortune from the hands of an adverse fate and now in his declining years is enjoying the fruits afforded him by an ample competence which he has himself acquired.

Mr. Jenkins was born in Guilford county, North Carolina, February 9, 1817, and is now in his eighty-fourth year. His father, Peter Jenkins, was born in Hartford county, North Carolina, in 1789, and was married in 1810 to Sally Coleman, by whom he had eleven children, eight of whom reached years of maturity. Bessie died in childhood. John, who was married and had six children, died in Indiana, in 1865. Peter died unmarried, at the age of seventy-three years. Dempsey had nine children and died at the age of

seventy years. Winburn, of this sketch, is now the only survivor. Charles died at the age of fifteen years. Sitha, who was married and had five children, died in 1848. Mary, who had four children, died in 1890, in the sixtieth year of her age. The father of these children passed away in 1832, but his widow survived him twenty years and died at the home of her son Winburn, in 1852. She was born about 1780 and was therefore seventy-two years of age at the time of her demise.

Winburn Jenkins was married shortly before his mother's death to Susan Lewiston, a widow, whose maiden name was Baker. She lived with his mother and aided in caring for her for a long time, and in her last illness the mother wished to see her son married, so that the wedding was celebrated before her death. Susan Baker was bereaved of her father at the early age of eleven years, and, like her husband, has borne much adversity. Mr. Jenkins has indeed had much to contend with. A low fever cut him off from all that makes life worth living for many months and it was believed by the doctors that he could never recover; but eventually he began to grow a little stronger and has reached the very advanced age of eighty-three years. He has suffered many hardships, trials and privations. When a lad he worked under a slave-driver, for twelve and a half cents per day, and at the age of nineteen he worked for one year for twenty-six dollars and a half. At one time in their dire penury he worked for four days in order to obtain a bushel of corn, which his mother carried to mill on her back, a distance of three miles, in order to have it ground into meal!

His unremitting labor, however, at length brought to him a small capital, and

with this he purchased forty acres of land,—his first real estate—paying fifteen dollars per acre. He incurred some indebtedness in the transaction but in time this was cleared away and ultimately he added to his property until he became the owner of one hundred, twenty-three and a half acres, a part of which was in Preble county, the remainder being across the road in Indiana. His present farm comprises eighty-three and a half acres and is a valuable tract, yielding to him a good income. He came from the south in 1840, when twenty-three years of age, and his worldly possessions were only two suits of linen clothes; but with determined purpose and unflagging labor he has steadily worked his way upward step by step and in his later years is enjoying all the necessities and many of the comforts of life.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins were born the following children: Sarah, the eldest, is the wife of Josiah Stewart, who is operating the home farm and living with Mr. Jenkins. They have five children: Chauncey A., now twenty-three years of age; John A., who is twenty-one years of age and is married and lives on his father's farm; and James W. G., Daisy L. and Martin Jacob, aged respectively nineteen, seventeen and fifteen years. There is also a niece in the family, aged eight years. Hattie, the second child of Mr. and Mrs. Jenkins, died at the age of eighteen. Amanda, the third child, is the wife of Joseph Guard and has three children: America died at the age of twenty-two, leaving an infant son. George is a resident of Richmond, Indiana. Mary died at the age of two years and three months. Mrs. Lewiston also had one son by her first marriage, Martin C., who is living in Indiana and has five children. Mr. Jenkins is a member of the Baptist church and in his po-

litical views is a Republican. His life has been well spent and at all times has been honorable and upright. He certainly deserves great credit for what he has accomplished, for many a man would have been utterly discouraged and disheartened under such unfavorable circumstances as have fallen to his lot.

GEORGE W. KELLER.

Upon one of the fine farms of Somers township Mr. Keller is carrying on stock raising and agricultural pursuits, and his well improved place indicates his careful supervision. He was born in Milford township, Preble county, Ohio, January 19, 1839, and represents one of the old Pennsylvania families. His grandfather was a native of Germany, who at an early day crossed the Atlantic and took up his abode in the Keystone state, where he followed farming until his death, which occurred about 1812. He reared four sons, and our subject can remember all of his uncles riding on horseback from Pennsylvania to Ohio in order to see their brother in this state. Jacob Keller, the father of our subject, was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, about 1791, and died in Somersville, Ohio, in 1866. His wife bore the maiden name of Sarah Spooner and was a native of Pennsylvania, where they were married about 1818. Mrs. Keller had a twin sister, and the two daughters looked very much alike, so that their friends were often confused in their endeavor to distinguish them. In the Keller family were ten children—seven sons and three daughters. The first born died in early childhood and one daughter was accidentally burned to death when a small child. Eight of the number, however, were married and reared families. The mother of these chil-

dren died in 1847 and the father afterward married Mrs. Shier, who by a former marriage had three sons and a daughter. Jacob Keller, a brother of our subject, married his stepmother's daughter.

George W. Keller, who was the ninth child in his father's family, received but limited school privileges, and when only nine years of age began work upon the home farm. At the age of sixteen he did a man's work, cradling flax and assisting in the labors of the harvest field. His life has been a busy and useful one, but in recent years he has been forced to put aside the more arduous duties of business, owing to failing health. For five years after beginning business on his own account he operated a rented farm in Butler county and in 1876 he came to Preble county, where he purchased his present farm of eighty acres, for forty-five hundred dollars. To do this he incurred an indebtedness of three thousand dollars. When the place came into his possession it was in a state of poor repair, but he cleared the land, planted crops and in the course of time secured abundant harvests. For a number of years he resided in the old brick house which was built by Dr. Brown nearly one hundred years ago, and a part of this dwelling is still standing near his new home. Mr. Keller has not only paid off his indebtedness but has spent over three thousand dollars in making improvements upon the farm. In 1880 he erected his present commodious and substantial residence, at a cost of two thousand dollars, and removed from the old home into the new in the latter part of the year. He has good barns and all the necessary out-buildings and his improvements are modern and complete. He carries on mixed farming, raising corn, wheat and oats. The rotation of crops keeps the soil in good condition

and he raises annually about twelve hundred bushels of corn, while his wheat fields yield about forty bushels per acre. He makes a specialty of the raising of registered Poland China hogs, sells from thirty to thirty-five head annually and has sold stock hogs for seventy to eighty dollars each. One sow, which he sold for thirty-five dollars, was afterwards considered so valuable by the owner that he refused five hundred dollars for her. The cellar in his home is a natural curiosity, the floor being a level rock, which was struck at the proper depth to be used for this purpose. It forms the entire floor of one cellar and nearly all of the other.

On the 12th of December, 1865, Mr. Keller was united in marriage to Miss Mary L. Murray, who was born June 25, 1843, and resided in Oxford township, Preble county. Six children were born of this union, but the eldest, an infant daughter, lived but a few days. Sarah Selina died January 7, 1869, at the age of fifteen years. Thomas Andrew, born April 26, 1870, died September 15, 1897, leaving a widow. Bertha is the wife of William Wright, of Morning Sun, and they have lost one child, but have two living children. Benjamin Franklin is married and resides near Camden. George Murray, who was born May 8, 1886, is at home with his father. The mother of these children died January 14, 1893, and the children are now all away with the exception of the youngest son.

Mr. Keller has no party or society affiliations. He has, however, served for sixteen years as road commissioner and has proved a very competent and capable official. His activity in business affairs has brought him gratifying success and he is now classed among the substantial farmers of his community.

MARTHA A. JONES.

Martha A. Jones resides at College Corner and is widely known in Israel township and Preble county. Her entire life has been passed in this township. She is a daughter of Thomas and Joanna (Duckett) Jones. The mother was born in Kentucky in 1810 and the father was born in Monroe county, Virginia, in 1797. Their marriage was celebrated in 1828 and soon afterward they located in Preble county on a small farm, close to the one which their daughter Martha now owns. In their family were fifteen children—five sons and ten daughters, their eldest child being Martha, who was born December 16, 1828, in Israel township. Eliza Jane, the second, became the wife of Joseph Laughlin and died at the age of forty-four years, leaving six children. Sarah is the wife of Jacob Davis. Mary died at the age of twenty-two years. Harriet died at the age of twenty-one. William passed away when eight years of age. The seventh was a daughter who died in infancy. Caroline, the next of the family, is now the wife of Charles Fessenden, who is living near Morning Sun and has five children. Thomas departed this life when seven years of age. James died at the age of four months. Joanna died at the age of ten years. John died in infancy. Margaret is the wife of Riley Kingley, of Dayton, Ohio. Ruth died at the age of seven years; and Charles Henry died at the age of five years. The father of these children was a farmer by occupation and followed that pursuit in order to provide for the wants of his children. He and his wife, together with their sons and daughters, were Methodists in their religious faith and were earnest Christian people whose lives were in harmony with

their professions. A self-made man, whatever success he achieved was due entirely to his own efforts. When he emigrated from Virginia to Ohio he had no capital and worked by the month as a farm hand for some time, but by industry, enterprise and sagacity, together with the assistance of his wife, he accumulated a good farm property upon which his widow resided until her death, when the estate was divided, Miss Martha Jones inheriting a part of the farm. The father died on the 10th of June, 1875, and the mother was called to her final rest on the 20th of February, 1895. The grandfather, William Jones, always remained in Virginia, where he followed the occupation of farming until life's labors were ended in death. His widow, however, spent her remaining days in College Corner, where she died in the '40s, at the age of seventy-seven.

Miss Jones, whose name introduces this record, took up her abode in her pleasant little cottage in 1896 and has since resided at College Corner. She has been a faithful and consistent member of the Methodist church for over forty years and her life has been one in which many acts of kindness have gained to her the esteem and friendship of all who know her, and no one is held in higher regard than this lady, who is indeed a worthy representative of one of the pioneer families of the county.

JOSEPH A. KENNEL.

Joseph A. Kennel is well known as a representative business man of Preble county. In business affairs he is energetic, prompt and notably reliable, and to-day he is successfully engaged in dealing in agricultural implements, though his principal occupation is that of an auctioneer. His parents were

John and Anna (Augspurger) Kennel. His father was born on the Rhine in Bavaria and came to America when eighteen years of age. In Butler county, Ohio, he married Miss Augspurger, who was born in that county. Her father lived upon a farm which was owned by the first spy of Napoleon. Readers of history will remember that the spies were graded according to their efficiency. When the Russians appeared in force our subject's maternal grandfather took all his possessions inside the fortifications, and after peace was declared this spy endeavored to increase the rent of his farm to which our subject's grandfather had returned, and, refusing to pay the increased rent, sold his personal possessions at public sale, lasting three weeks, and then with his family came to America, finally locating on the Miami river, four miles northeast of Hamilton, where he operated a large distillery and owned many hundred acres of valuable land. He lived to a ripe old age and died very wealthy. Both the Kennel and Augspurger families were noted for longevity, although the parents of our subject did not live to very advanced ages. The mother died in Butler county, at the age of forty-four years, and the father in the same county at the age of sixty-eight. He was the second time married, but his children, seven in number, were all born of the same union. Joseph A. had a twin sister, Josephine, who is now the widow of J. H. Scott, who was an architect of marked ability. Mrs. Scott resides in Chicago and is an expert stenographer, being now connected with the Northwestern Life Insurance Company. The eldest of the family was Frederick, who resides at Trenton, Ohio, near his birthplace, and is a dealer in agricultural implements. The second is Christian, who resides on a farm near Bloomington.

ton, Illinois. John is a wealthy farmer living near Delavan, Illinois. Edward is a farmer and an extensive manufacturer of tile and drainage material at Keota, Iowa; and Magdalena is the wife of Jacob Augspurger, a wealthy farmer and elevator owner who resides in Farmer City, Illinois.

Mr. Kennel, of this review, was born near Trenton, Butler county, Ohio, December 6, 1856. His mother died when he was less than a year old, but his father's second wife proved to him a faithful mother and he is not slow to acknowledge the fact that he owes much to her careful training. He remained upon the old homestead until twenty-three years of age, when, in connection with his brothers, he cultivated the farm. Experience has made him familiar with the labor of following the plow and harvesting crops. During the winter months he attended college in Wadsworth, Ohio, for two terms, and during that time partly paid his tuition by teaching one branch of mathematics. His father, who was an earnest Christian gentleman, desired that he should enter the ministry, and accordingly he took up the study of theology, but he did not feel that he had been called to preach the gospel, and, believing that his labors would be better directed in other channels, at the end of one term he returned to the home farm and in 1875 he purchased a thrashing outfit, using oxen to draw the engine. He soon after purchased another threshing outfit and in 1880 he threshed over one hundred thousand bushels of grain. He purchased the grain elevator and hominy mill at Oraplis Station, on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad, and in 1887 he began auctioneering. The following year he purchased an Advance thresher complete and for two years devoted his energies to threshing, auctioneer-

ing and farming, after which he accepted a position in the employ of the Advance Thresher Company, of Battle Creek, Michigan, selling their goods. That he gave excellent satisfaction is indicated by the increased salary which he received from time to time and he was given the privilege of attending to his auctioneering business during the months of February and March. He continued to represent the threshing company as a traveling salesman until 1893, when he was forced to leave the road on account of ill health. Since that time he has had to decline many good positions which have been offered him. He was engaged in the threshing business for fourteen years and during eight years of that time operated only two machines. He was in the grain and milling business from 1879 to 1886, and in 1880 and 1881 he conducted a grocery. He is recognized as one of the enterprising, wide-awake and progressive business men of Eaton and of Preble county and has been successful. All of his business ventures, however, have not proved profitable, but whatever success he has achieved is due entirely to his own efforts.

Mr. Kennel was elected a township trustee of St. Clair township, Butler county, when in his twenty-third year, and after serving for two terms declined a third election. Later he was township clerk for three terms and declined to serve again. He was the postmaster of his place under President Hayes. In all public positions he discharged his duty with marked promptness and fidelity. For six years he served as freight and ticket agent on the Cincinnati, Hamilton & Dayton Railroad, and was also express agent at Overpeck's Station.

After his arrival in Eaton Mr. Kennel

soon became well known in Preble county, and in 1895 was made the Democratic candidate for county recorder, which nomination was given him unsolicited; and although the election gave five hundred Republican majority, he ran far ahead of his ticket. In 1896 his party nominated him for sheriff and he was defeated by only fifty-eight votes, and again in 1898 he was his party's candidate for sheriff, and again made a creditable race, though defeated.

On the 24th of November, 1892, Mr. Kennel was married, in Eaton, to Miss Laura A. Shideler, a native of Preble county and a daughter of Hon. Henry P. and Hannah A. Shideler, residents of this county. The father for three times represented his district in the state legislature and was a recognized leader in public thought and movement. He died in May, 1892, and his wife has also passed away. In their family were twelve children, eight of whom are yet living, namely: Sarah, Leander, Jacob, Mary, Laura, Anna, Charles and Olive. Two died in infancy, while Flora died in her seventeenth year and Andrew J. died at the age of twenty-seven years. Mr. Kennel is a member of the Bolivar Lodge, No. 82, F. & A. M., and he and his wife are members of the Order of the Eastern Star.

LESLIE H. REID.

Leslie H. Reid is an enterprising and wide-awake business man of College Corner, where, as a member of the firm of Reid & Bishop, he is engaged in handling hardware, tinware, stoves, bicycles, farm implements, feed-grinders, wind pumps and all kinds of vehicles. The firm enjoy a large and constantly increasing trade, their straightforward business methods, energy and un-

failing courtesy securing to them a liberal and well merited patronage. Mr. Reid is justly numbered among the representative business men of this section of the county and with pleasure we present the record of his life to our readers.

He is a native of New Paris, born on the 17th of February, 1871. His father, Andrew K. Reid, was born on the same farm in 1830, and the grandfather, James Reid, is a native of Rockbridge county, Virginia, and was of Scotch-Irish descent. He came to Ohio about 1816, thus being numbered among the pioneer settlers of the Buckeye state. He married a Miss Kirkpatrick and they reared three sons and four daughters, all of whom are now deceased with the exception of Andrew K. Reid. They were all married and had families, one of the sons, John P. Reid, having eleven sons and two daughters who reached years of maturity. Upon the homestead farm Andrew K. Reid was reared to manhood and as a companion and helpmeet on life's journey he chose Miss Elizabeth Frances Windsor, of Preble county, a daughter of Enos Windsor, whose wife was a member of the Starks family. They were farming people, as were the parents of our subject. For many years Andrew K. Reid carried on agricultural pursuits, but ultimately removed to New Paris, where he is still living at the home of his son James. His wife passed away on the 24th of April, 1898, when nearly sixty years of age. Their eldest child, P. A. Reid, is the secretary and treasurer of the Elliott & Reid Company, wire fence manufacturers at Richmond, Indiana. C. E. Reid, a very enterprising and capable business man, engaged in the sale of farm implements in Nebraska and died September 1, 1897, at the age of thirty-seven years. James F., who is living

in New Paris, is the general agent of the Union Corn Planter Company, of Ohio. Leslie H. is the next of the family. Linnie E. is the wife of Alonzo Morrison. Emma M. is the wife of Sylvanus Lovin. Ida and Lyda, twin daughters, are married, the former the wife of Leroy Little and the latter of O. R. Jordan. All of the children reside in or near Richmond, Indiana.

Leslie H. Reid, like the other members of the family, received good educational privileges in the common schools and remained at home through the days of his boyhood and youth, assisting in the operation of his father's farm. He was married on the 17th of June, 1892, at the age of twenty-one years, to Miss Katie C. Myers, who was born near Morning Sun, a daughter of Jacob and Salina Myers. One child graced their union, Derkin, who was born in March, 1893.

Mr. Reid continued his farming operations until 1897, when he began business in College Corner. He bought out the firm of Kennedy & Garber and on the 3d of October, 1899, admitted J. F. Bishop to a partnership, under the firm name of Reid & Bishop. They own the leading store in their line in College Corner. They carry a large and complete stock, handling eight car-loads of wagons and buggies and farm implements annually. He also sells about one hundred bicycles per year. Their extensive store room is well filled with a well selected stock of shelf and heavy hardware. The firm are progressive and enterprising men who well merit the success which crowns their efforts.

Socially Mr. Reid is a valued member of the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. He has exercised his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democratic party since twenty-one years of age

and has served as assessor for three years. He did not seek the office but his fitness for the position recommended him to his fellow townsmen, and he was elected by a large vote, overcoming the usual Republican majority. Honorable in all his business dealings, courteous in all life's relations, he commands the respect and confidence of his fellow men and is well known as an enterprising and reliable citizen of Preble county.

HENRY UNGER.

Henry Unger, deceased, was one of the worthy citizens that Germany has furnished to the new world. He made his home on section 22, Harrison township, Preble county, Ohio, where his widow still resides, and was successfully engaged in agricultural pursuits for many years, being a very industrious, enterprising and energetic man, of good business and executive ability.

Mr. Unger was born in Germany, March 29, 1837, and at the age of fourteen years started for America with his parents, but his father died on the voyage. He and his mother first located in Cincinnati, but after spending three months in that city came to Preble county, where he soon commenced work by the month. He first married Rebecca Glander, by whom he had one son, Frank, now a resident of Harrison township. After his marriage he engaged in farming for a short time upon a place south of West Alexandria, and then removed to the present homestead of the family in Harrison township, where he followed general farming, with good success until his death, which occurred January 31, 1894. He was a member of the Lutheran church, and was highly respected and esteemed by all who knew him.

Two years after the death of his first

wife, Mr. Unger was again married, April 7, 1874, his second union being with Miss Adeline Smith, and to them were born seven children who are still living, namely: Ida, the wife of Anda Albert, of Harrison township; and Emma, Benjamin, William, John, May and Roy, all at home. The two deceased were Mary and Carl.

Mrs. Unger was born near Bremen, Germany, November 20, 1851, and was eighteen years of age when she came, alone, to the United States. On landing in this country she proceeded at once to West Alexandria, Preble county, Ohio, where she made her home for two years or until her marriage. Since her husband's death she has successfully managed the farm, consisting of ninety-five acres of rich and arable land under a high state of cultivation, and well improved. She is a woman of more than ordinary business ability, and deserves great credit for the success that she has achieved. She and her children are all members of the Lutheran church of Lewisburg, and the family is one of considerable social prominence in the community where they reside.

JAMES A. AND WILLIAM A. GILMORE.

The name of Gilmore has long been associated with the history of the promotion of agricultural interests in Preble county, and the brothers are now actively engaged in farming on section 20, Israel township. They were born upon this farm, the former in June, 1821, the latter in September, 1830. Their father, Robert Gilmore, was born in Rockingham county, Virginia, in 1793, and was a son of James Gilmore, who was probably a native of the same state. There he followed farming and owned a large tract of land which he operated with the aid of

negro slaves. He married a Miss Davidson, and they became the parents of the following children: John; Robert; James, who was killed by accident when a young man; Samuel; Addison; Jane, the wife of Nash Pitcher; Sally, now Mrs. Page; and Polly, the wife of James Davidson. In 1816 the grandfather of our subject sold his property in Virginia and came to Ohio, locating at Columbus, where he died the following year. He was one of the patriots of the Revolutionary war and served under Generals Washington and Wayne in the struggle for independence. His wife died in the Old Dominion.

Robert Gilmore accompanied his father to Ohio. His wife, Martha Gilmore, was born in Rockingham county, in 1802, and was a distant cousin of her husband. She was married when very young, and their first child, Clara Jane, was born in 1819. She became the wife of John Buch and in early womanhood died in the home which is now occupied by James and William Gilmore. She was married and left an infant child who died soon afterward at Buck's farm in South Carolina. James Gilmore is the seventh of this family. Jonathan, who became a good Latin scholar, died in Preble county, in 1843. William M. was the next of the family. Nancy died in childhood. Robert is now at College Corners. Anna D. died at the age of fourteen years, and Samuel B. removed from Israel township, Preble county, to Newcastle, Indiana, in 1900. He is married and has a large number of children. The mother of the above named children died in 1852. Her father, Jonathan Paxton, died of typhoid fever, and his two daughters, Mrs. Gilmore and Mrs. Rachel McGrove, passed away about the same time. Martha, the next of the family, is the wife of Samuel Hockersmith, of Now-

castle, Indiana, and the youngest, Mrs. Rachel M. Hockersmith, is living in Israel township.

When the Gilmore family was established in Ohio, the grandfather secured a half section of good land near the home of James and William Gilmore, and in 1819 their father purchased sixty-four acres here. In 1854 he purchased four hundred acres and owned several other farms, which are still in possession of the family.

James and William Gilmore have been successful farmers, following agricultural pursuits through their entire lives. They began business on their own account on sixty-four acres of land on Big Four Mile creek, and afterward purchased one hundred and sixty acres now owned by Robert Gilmore. They also owned eighty-four acres which had at one time been a part of their grandfather Paxton's farm, and they have one hundred acres on section 17, Israel township, that had belonged to James B. Gilmore. In Terry and Pecos counties, Texas, they had six hundred and forty acres. Thus their landed possessions have been extensive and the care and labor which they have bestowed upon their farms have brought to them good financial returns. They have made a specialty of the raising of hogs, selling as high as one hundred and twenty-five head per year. In 1856 they built their large residence, which is constructed in cottage style with a wide gable to the road and a large porch across the entire front, supported by pillars. The house is beautifully shaded by evergreen and cedar trees. The home is built after the style of the typical Virginia plantation homes and the wide verandah furnishes a most inviting retreat on a hot summer day. The Gilmore brothers are successful business men, whose resolute purpose and deter-

mination have enabled them to overcome many obstacles and work their way steadily upward to success, continually adding to their property as the result of their well directed labors and straightforward business methods.

RICHARD FRANCIS.

Richard Francis devotes his time and energies to agricultural pursuits in Somers township, Preble county, his home being conveniently located near the city of Camden. He is numbered among Ohio's native sons, for his birth occurred in Warren county on the 2d of May, 1841. He is descended from one of the old families of New Jersey. His grandfather, Richard Francis, was born in that state July 16, 1787, and was a farmer by occupation. He married Miss Lydia Topscot and they reared three sons and one daughter. Those still living are Adonijah; Sallie, the widow of George Emery, and William, who is living in Carlisle. The great-grandfather of our subject bore the name of Adonijah Francis, and his grandson, the father of our subject, was named in his honor. The latter was born in Carlisle, Warren county, Ohio, April 4, 1814, and is now living retired upon his farm there. After reaching man's estate he married Deborah Barcelow, who died leaving a son and daughter. The son died when about fifty-eight years of age, leaving three children. The daughter, Lydia, is the widow of William Anderson, of Olathe, Kansas, and has one son and one daughter. After the death of his first wife, Adonijah Francis married Cynthia Burgin, who was born in Harrisburg, Kentucky, and died in July, 1889, at the age of sixty-seven years. They had seven children—three sons and

four daughters—of whom one daughter, Deborah, died in infancy. Richard was the eldest of the children. Mary became the wife of David Vandervere and died in Grinnell, Iowa, in 1890, leaving a son. Cornelia has been twice married, her second husband being Joseph Sommers, and she has four children—two sons and two daughters. Otto is a prominent practicing physician of Dayton, Ohio, and has two sons. George B. is a farmer of Carlisle and has three daughters and two sons. Sarah R. is the wife of Clinton Mitchell, of Carlisle, and they have two children.

Mr. Francis, of this review, was reared upon the old home farm and early became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He obtained a common school education, and on attaining his majority started out in life for himself by operating his father's farm. Subsequently he purchased the property upon which he now resides and took up his abode there March 18, 1874. He has here one hundred and fifty-seven acres of rich and arable land, which is improved with substantial barns, a good residence and other accessories of the model farm. In fact, the place is one of the finest in the township, and the well-tilled fields yield to him a golden tribute in return for the care and labor he bestows upon them. He fully recognizes the fact that a farm kept in good condition yields the best returns. The residence and barn are set far back from the road, thus escaping the dust, and everything about the place indicates thrift, enterprise, comfort and refinement. He has given considerable attention to the raising of fine stock, including horses, cattle, hogs and Southdown sheep. He has on hand fifteen horses and also has from thirty-five to fifty head of hogs of the

Jersey breed. He breeds some fine coach horses, and he and his son have bred some very superior teams of matched horses, worth one thousand dollars. He is a member of the Wayne County Farmers' Club and is accounted one of the most progressive and enterprising agriculturists of his community. He prosecutes his labors with diligence and energy and his efforts have not been without that reward which is the just return for a well-spent life. A large flock of poultry is under the supervision of Mrs. Francis, who is an excellent housekeeper, managing her home most systematically.

Mr. Francis was married to Miss Ann Chamberlin, who was born in Monmouth county, New Jersey, February 24, 1844, and was a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Dey) Chamberlin, both natives of New Jersey. The father died in 1848, at the age of twenty-eight years, leaving a widow with two daughters and a son, namely: Mrs. Francis, Elizabeth, the wife of John Prine, and Daniel, who died at the age of twenty-eight years, leaving a son, Clifford, who is now in Indiana. After the death of her first husband Mrs. Francis was again married, becoming the wife of David Johnes, by whom she had four children, two sons and two daughters—as follows: Addison, who is living in Ocean Grove, New Jersey, and has two sons and two daughters; Ella, of Kansas City, Missouri, who is married and has seven sons and one daughter; Edmond, who is living in Atlantic City, New Jersey, and has two daughters; Catherine, the wife of William Taylor, of New Jersey, by whom she has three sons and three daughters.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Francis have been born three children: Lizzie, now the wife of Lurton Young, a farmer of Gasper township, by whom she has three children, two daugh-

ters and a son; William, who is operating the old home farm, and Clark, who died at the age of two years.

Mr. Francis is a Republican in his political views and has filled the office of commissioner for eight years. He and his wife are members of the Presbyterian church and are people whose well-spent lives have gained them the confidence and regard of many friends. They are worthy representatives of the agricultural interests of the county where they have so long resided and in this volume they well deserve mention.

JAMES A. CAMPBELL.

James A. Campbell was one of the extensive and successful agriculturists of Israel township, his home being on section 6. It was here that he was born, in the old home built by James Penticost and which is now falling into decay. His father is Jacob Campbell, who was born in Londonderry, Ireland, in 1825. His grandfather, Andrew Campbell, born in 1789, was married in Ireland and lost his wife in that country. He afterward emigrated to the new world and died in Fair Haven, Ohio, in 1886, at the advanced age of ninety-seven years. He reared five children, three sons and two daughters, the living being Mrs. Nancy Weis, of Eaton; Mrs. Rachel Lyons, of Indiana, and James Campbell, the father of our subject, and is now living in College Corner. Another brother, Andrew Campbell, was for many years a well-known farmer near Eaton, and his death occurred in February, 1900, at the age of seventy-two years. John Campbell, another brother, carried on agricultural pursuits near Fair Haven and died in 1896, when about eighty years of age.

James Campbell, Sr., spent his childhood

and youth in the land of his nativity, and when twenty-two years of age came alone to America, crossing the Atlantic on a sailing vessel in 1847. After a voyage of four weeks he arrived at New York city with a cash capital of only fifty cents. With characteristic energy, however, he began work and to-day stands among the most prominent and influential representatives of the agriculturists of Preble county. He married Miss Elizabeth Monteith, who was born in Dublin, Ireland, in 1844, and came to this country in 1861. Their marriage occurred in College Corner, on the 18th of May, 1862, and by their union have been born five children: Robert A., a successful grain dealer at College Corner; Martha B., the wife of M. C. Orr; John S., who is living on the home farm; Lillian, the wife of Thomas W. McMeans, of Richmond, Indiana, and James A., of this review.

The last named was reared upon the old home farm and early became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He attended the public schools and also spent one year in Geneva College. In Beaver Falls, Pennsylvania, he was married, September 30, 1896, to Miss Elizabeth E. D. Brown, of Israel township, a daughter of Barclay and Sarah Brown. They now have a bright and beautiful baby boy, Forest Raymond, who was born November 2, 1899. Mr. Campbell operates a valuable farm of three hundred and twelve acres on which his father settled in 1868, removing to Preble county from Union county, Indiana, where he had previously rented land. He owned four hundred and twelve acres here and also has a farm of one hundred acres adjoining. In 1877 he removed to his present farm residence, a large two-story-and-a-half dwelling, sup-

plied with all modern conveniences. This farm is undoubtedly the best improved farm in the township. Upon it is a barn known throughout this section of the country, for it is ninety-four by fifty-two feet, and under it is a large basement used for stock. It was built in 1879. Mr. Campbell, of this review, and his father were at one time extensively engaged in breeding horses, but at the present time they have about twelve horses. They have also raised cattle on a large scale, making a specialty of Durhams and Jerseys. A large number of hogs are annually sold from this farm in addition to the extensive crops of wheat, corn and clover which are raised. These crops are rotated in the order mentioned and the fields are therefore always very productive. He secures from thirty to forty bushels per acre in wheat. In 1899 he had ninety acres planted to wheat, giving an average yield of thirty-two bushels per acre. He also planted from seventy-five to ninety acres of corn, which will yield on an average of sixty bushels per acre. His stock is now mostly hogs and Durham cattle and he yearly sells about one hundred and fifty head of Duroc Jersey hogs. His farm is undoubtedly one of the best improved in the county, and under the careful management of Mr. Campbell it is continually improving its productiveness.

In his political views Mr. Campbell is a Democrat, but has never held office save that of school director. His parents are members of the United Presbyterian church, but he has never joined any religious organization. The family is one of prominence in the community, occupying an enviable position in social circles and enjoying the warm regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact. Mr. Campbell belongs to that class of enterprising agriculturists

to whom Ohio owes much of its prosperity, and as a leading representative citizen of Preble county he well deserves mention in this volume.

ROBERT P. GILMORE.

Robert P. Gilmore is a retired farmer now living at West College Corner, Indiana, just across the Ohio line, but was so long and actively identified with the agricultural interests of Preble county that he well deserves mention on the pages of its history. He is also a member of one of its leading families, for the Gilmores have long been honorably known in western Ohio.

Robert P. Gilmore was born in Israel township, Preble county, on Four Mile creek, his birth occurring on the 14th of June, 1834. His father, Robert Gilmore, was a native of Rockbridge county, Virginia, born near the close of the eighteenth century. His father was Samuel Gilmore, who reared several sons and daughters that came to Ohio, locating at Columbus. Robert Gilmore, like the others, sought a home in the Buckeye state, and, as a companion and helpmeet on life's journey, chose Miss Martha Paxton, of Rockbridge county, and they became the parents of six children who are still living and four who have passed away.

Robert P. Gilmore, whose name heads this review, was the seventh in order of birth. He acquired his education in the district school near his home, was reared upon his father's farm, and, on beginning business life for himself, he continued in the occupation with which he had become familiar in the days of his boyhood and youth. He followed farming until 1894, raising all kinds of grain best adapted to this climate, also buying and selling stock. The sale of his

crops annually brought him between two and three thousand dollars, and in one year alone he sold fifteen hundred bushels of wheat, at a dollar per bushel. He operated two hundred and forty acres of land and is still the owner of one hundred and sixty acres, the income from which supplies him with all the necessities and many of the luxuries of life. In 1894, however, he put aside the arduous cares of the farm and in the following year took up his residence in the village of College Corner.

Mr. Gilmore was married January 1, 1857, to Miss R. C. Buck, a daughter of Samuel and Margaret (McDill) Buck. They became the parents of six children, but four of the number died in infancy. Those still living are Samuel, who resides on the home farm, which was purchased by his father about 1850, and has two sons and a daughter, the latter being Martha M., the wife of John Woodruff, of Oxford, Butler county, Ohio. Mr. Gilmore and his wife are members of the old Hopewell United Presbyterian church, in which he is serving as an elder and in whose work they take an active interest. In politics he has been a stanch Republican since casting his first presidential vote for John C. Fremont, yet he has never sought office, preferring to devote his time and energies to his business affairs, in which he has met with a creditable success.

ORLANDO M. WILSON.

Orlando M. Wilson, a well known and enterprising farmer and stock raiser of Gasper township, was born in Preble county, Ohio, on the 16th day of May, 1837, and is a representative of one of the old families of New Jersey. His grandfather, William Wilson, was a farmer of that state, and emi-

grating westward took up his residence in Butler county, Ohio, when that section of the state was an almost unbroken forest. He had four sons and two daughters, all of whom were married and reared families of their own. They became farming people of Ohio, with the exception of one uncle, who removed to another state. They lived to an advanced age, but all have now passed away. William Wilson, the father of our subject, was born in New Jersey, about 1800, and died in the house which is now the home of our subject, in February, 1876, at the age of seventy-four years. His wife bore the maiden name of Eliza Cox and was a native of Butler county. They were married in 1836, and became the parents of four children, three sons and a daughter: Orlando M., of this review; Ruth Ann, the wife of Wesley Neff, of Washington, D. C., by whom she has two sons; William, a carpenter of Eaton, who is married and has six children, and Scott, a farmer of Preble county, who is married and has one daughter. The father of these children was called to his final rest in 1876, and his wife passed away about six years later. He left a good property, including the home farm.

Orlando M. Wilson, the subject of this sketch, received but meager school privileges, pursuing his studies in an old log school house through the winter months. During the remainder of the year, however, he worked in the fields, assisting in planting the crops and in caring for them until harvests were garnered in the autumn. He continued his studies in the district school until eighteen years of age and continued to remain at home until twenty-three, when he began operating the farm belonging to his grandfather Cox. He was thus engaged for a few years. He now owns two

farms, one of eighty acres southwest of Camden and also a fifty-acre tract adjoining the old homestead farm of eighty acres, upon which his father settled on coming to Preble county, there spending his remaining days. That property now belongs to S. E. Shellenbarger. Mr. Wilson carries on general farming, raising corn, wheat and oats. He sells his wheat, but feeds his other crops to stock. He makes a specialty of the raising of hogs, selling from thirty-five to forty head annually. He also has a fine flock of sheep and has good horses and cattle upon his place. In fact, he is recognized as one of the most wide-awake and progressive farmers of the neighborhood, operating two hundred and ten acres of land.

On the 14th of February, 1851, occurred the marriage of Mr. Wilson and Miss Amanda Neff, who was born in Clark county, Ohio, November 23, 1839, a daughter of Daniel and Elizabeth (Herr) Neff. Her father died in 1894, at the age of eighty-three years, his birth having occurred in 1811. The mother, however, is still living in Camden, at the age of eighty-six years. In their family were ten children, of whom four sons and four daughters reached the age of maturity. The sons and two daughters are still living. Mr. and Mrs. Wilson became the parents of four children: George, who died at the age of four years; Bertie, who became the wife of George E. Douglas, and died the day prior to the twenty-fifth anniversary of her birth, on which day her infant daughter also died; John, who is engaged in farming, in connection with his brother-in-law, Mr. Douglas, in Iowa, and Harry, a youth of sixteen, who is now a student in the high school of Camden.

Mr. Wilson exercises his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of

the Republican party and keeps well informed on the issues of the day, yet he has never sought office. His wife is a member of the Methodist church. They are people of the highest respectability, widely known in the community, and the esteem of a large circle of friends is accorded them.

HORACE G. BLOOM.

Among the earnest men whose depth of character and strict adherence to principle excite the admiration of his contemporaries, Mr. Bloom is prominent. Banking institutions are the heart of a commercial body, indicating the healthiness of trade, and the bank that follows a safe, conservative business policy does more to establish confidence in times of wide-spread financial depression than anything else. Such a course is the Farmers' Bank of New Paris following, under the able management of its owner and president, the subject of this sketch. For many years he has been one of the most active business men in this portion of Preble county, and has contributed in a large measure to the development, progress and prosperity of his community. He resides three and a half miles southeast of New Paris, on a farm in Jefferson township, where his birth occurred October 13, 1853. He was the second son and fourth child in the family of Guy and Hannah F. (Jameson) Bloom. He spent the days of his boyhood and youth under the parental roof in the township of his nativity and in the common schools of the neighborhood pursued his education, while during the summer months he assisted in the work of the farm. He continued agricultural pursuits until 1889, since which time he has been engaged in the banking business, having in that year established the

Farmers' Bank at New Paris. He has since conducted it with marked success, following a safe and conservative policy that has made the institution one of the most reliable in this section of the state. He also has a bank at Eldorado and another at New Madison, Darke county. He still superintends the operation of his own farms, three in number, and also superintends four farms belonging to estates in Darke and Preble counties, Ohio, and in Indiana. He is also interested in a telephone line which connects all of his banks. He is a man of resourceful business ability, energetic, wide-awake and enterprising, and he carries forward to successful completion whatever he undertakes.

Mr. Bloom was married in New Paris to Miss Ella Kreider. Socially he is connected with Harmony Lodge, No. 396, K. of P. His courteous manner and genial disposition make him a social favorite. His life has been one of marked industry and enterprise, and through his own well-directed efforts he has accumulated a handsome competence. He is well known in southwestern Ohio and eastern Indiana and sustains an unassailable reputation for reliability.

HENRY BECK.

This worthy citizen of Lewisburg is now living a retired life after many years spent in active business, principally in this state. He was born January 14, 1818, about eight miles east of Burlington, New Jersey, in Burlington county. His father, Joseph Beck, was a native of the same state and a hatter by trade, carrying on that business at Columbus, New Jersey, for many years. He died at the age of eighty-nine. His father is supposed to have been born in New Jersey and was of Holland descent. The mother

of our subject, who bore the maiden name of Rebecca Gibbs, was also a native of that state, and a daughter of Mahlon Gibbs, who spent his entire life there as a farmer. He was a soldier in the Revolutionary war. His father, Richard Gibbs, was a native of England and the founder of the family in this country. Mrs. Beck died at the age of seventy-seven years. She was the mother of eight children, namely: Ann, who died in infancy; Sarah, who died at the age of eighty-five years; Elias G., who died at the age of seventy-five; Henry, our subject; Joseph, a physician of Eldorado, Ohio; Elizabeth, the wife of Eli Miller, of Iowa; Mary, the widow of Newton Carter, of Camden, New Jersey; and Ann, the wife of Frank Donaldson, of New Richmond, Clermont county, Ohio.

Henry Beck lived in his native county until October, 1831, when he came with his parents to Butler county, Ohio, where the following four years were passed. In 1835, when about eighteen years of age, he first came to Preble county and was engaged in farming in Harrison township until 1843. He also taught school in this county about 1840, and among his pupils were J. H. Foos, now an attorney of Eaton, and Mrs. Samuel Cooret. In 1843 he went to Cincinnati, where he followed draying for two years, and then worked in a distillery for a short time, where he was employed as a gauger. In 1854 he was appointed city gauger, and held that position until 1861, when he received a similar appointment from the government, filling the latter position for many years. He was engaged in the whisky business on his own account for one year, and was interested in the commission business for a time. For about fifty-one years he made his home in Cincinnati and across the

river in Covington, Kentucky, spending twenty-seven years in the latter place. In 1894 he returned to Preble county, and has since lived a retired life in Lewisburg.

Mr. Beck was married in August, 1843, to Miss Lydia A. Gates, a native of Pennsylvania, and a daughter of Jacob Gates, who also was born in that state and came to Preble county, Ohio, at an early day. He was twice married, his second wife being the mother of Mrs. Beck. Of the three children born to our subject and wife, the eldest died in infancy. Charles A., a resident of Middletown, Ohio, wedded Mary E. Jacobey and they have two children; and Edwin O. married Mary Singer, and they have two children—Eva and Anna. The wife of our subject died February 24, 1897.

Originally Mr. Beck was a Democrat in politics, but since President Lincoln's second term he has affiliated with the Republican party. In religious belief he is a Spiritualist.

CLAYTON BORRADAILE.

Clayton Borradaile, engaged in farming and stock breeding in Israel township, was born February 12, 1848, near his present home, his birth occurring on the old farmstead where his maternal grandfather, Clayton Brown, located about 1816. The latter was born October 3, 1781, in New Jersey, and after arriving at years of maturity he married Elizabeth Vanshiver, whose birth occurred October 23, 1794. Their marriage was celebrated in 1814 and from New Jersey they emigrated westward, making the journey by team. After six weeks spent upon the road they arrived at Waynesville, Ohio, and thence came to Israel township, Preble county.

Of the family of seven brothers and two

sisters, of the Brown family, who located in this county, only two are still living in the neighborhood, namely: Barclay and Sarah, the latter the widow of Joseph Borradaile. The ancestry of the Brown family can be traced back to Samuel Brown. His son, John Brown, was the great-great-grandfather of our subject. He died August 6, 1800, and his widow passed away on the 5th of January, 1832. He was born August 16, 1752, and his wife, who bore the maiden name of Virginia Gatskill, was born May 15, 1751. They were married in January, 1774, and had seven sons and two daughters. William Brown, the great-grandfather of our subject, died December 7, 1873, and his widow passed away May 16, 1832. In their family were seven sons and two daughters. Their first child was Joseph Brown, who was born July 17, 1775. Their second and third children were twins, Abraham and John, who were born September 21, 1777. Their last child, William Brown, was born January 26, 1792. Clayton Brown, the grandfather of Mr. Borradaile, was born in New Jersey, October 3, 1781. Among his children is a daughter Priscilla, who was born on the old Brown homestead, February 11, 1821, and in 1845 she gave her hand in marriage to William D. Borradaile. He was a native of Philadelphia, born about 1815, and in 1826 was brought to Preble county by his father, Arthur Borradaile. Amid the wild scenes of the frontier he was reared to manhood, early becoming familiar with the arduous task of developing a new farm. Throughout his active business life he carried on agricultural pursuits. In his family were eight children: Martha, who was born in 1846, died in 1864, at the age of eighteen years; Clayton is the next of the family; Arthur died in early childhood;

Anna is the wife of Frank N. Billman, a representative farmer living just across the line in Indiana; John is an agriculturist located south of Dayton; Sarah died at the age of three years; Edward M. is engaged in stock dealing, in company with S. E. Morton, and makes his home south of Liberty, Indiana; and Mary E. is the wife of William C. Billman, of Dixon township, Preble county.

Mr. Borradaile obtained an excellent common-school education and devoted his time and energies largely to the work of field and meadow through the years of his youth. He remained at home until his marriage, which occurred January 10, 1872, Miss Elizabeth A. Morton becoming his wife. She is a daughter of Hezekiah and Hannah (Vanshiver) Morton. The young couple began their domestic life upon a rented farm in Dixon township, where they remained for two years and a half, when they took up their abode upon the old Morton homestead of eighty-one acres, which the grandfather, Benjamin Morton, had located in pioneer days, making a settlement in the midst of the forest. They now own this farm, also the old Brown farm of one hundred acres, and the subject of this review devotes his energies to the raising of grain and stock. His fields annually yield him about thirteen hundred bushels of wheat and two thousand bushels of corn. He also sells yearly about one hundred hogs and has upon the place some fine registered Duroc Jersey swine. His son has taken more premiums at the fairs in Ohio, Indiana, Wisconsin and Michigan than any other man in the township. Mr. Borradaile keeps seven head of horses to do his farm work and has upon the place a herd of about twenty head of polled Durham cat-

tle. The brick residence which he occupies is one of the landmarks of the township.

Unto our subject and wife have been born three children: Leona, a young lady of great energy, is at home; Herbert Leslie, the only son, assists in the operation of the farm, and Velma Ethel is a beautiful little girl of five summers. The parents are both birth-right members of the Society of Friends. In his political views Mr. Borradaile is a Republican. He has served as the clerk of his township, as a school director and as a constable, and in all those offices has discharged his duties with marked promptness and fidelity. He takes great delight and finds recreation from his arduous business cares in hunting and is a worthy follower of Nimrod. He has brought home from the forests fine deer which he killed with a repeating rifle. He now has an excellent specimen of a deer's head which was prepared by a taxidermist and now hangs on his wall, and the tanned hide makes a beautiful rug upon the floor. Mr. Borradaile is an excellent shot and his trips to the woods are a source of great pleasure to him. As a business man he is honorable and upright, and his carefully directed labors have gained him a place among the substantial farmers of his community.

FELIX MARSH.

Felix Marsh, who was one of the ablest lawyers that ever practiced at the bar of Preble county, was a strong advocate before the jury and concise in his appeals before the court. His wonderful oratorical clothing of sound logic and truth carried conviction to the minds of his hearers, and merit enabled him to mount the hill of fame. He

was of Scotch lineage and possessed many of the sterling qualities of that sturdy and talented race. Born in Camden, New Jersey, July 21, 1806, he died in Eaton in 1872, respected by all who knew him. His father, 'Squire Marsh, was a tailor by trade. The son was given good educational privileges, pursuing his studies in Miami University at Oxford. He came with his parents to Ohio, the family locating in Camden, Preble county. In the pursuance of his studies he displayed marked aptitude and was especially proficient in the languages. He also early gave evidence of marked oratorical ability and was afterward celebrated for his learned addresses before public assemblages and in the court room. He was regarded as a most fluent and cultured speaker and one of the best read men in the county.

Mr. Marsh began the study of law in Cincinnati and was admitted to the bar in 1834. To an understanding of uncommon acuteness and vigor he added a thorough and conscientious training, while he exemplified in his practice all the higher elements of the truly great lawyer. He was constantly inspired by an innate, inflexible love of justice and a delicate sense of personal honor, which controlled him in all his personal relations. His fidelity to the interests of his clients was proverbial, yet he never forgot that he owed a higher allegiance to the majesty of the law. His diligence and energy in the preparation of his cases, as well as the earnestness, tenacity and courage with which he defended the right, as he understood it, challenged the highest admiration of his associates. He invariably sought to present his argument in the strong, clear light of common reason and sound logical principle. He served his county as prosecuting attorney and enjoyed a very

large and distinctively representative practice. His oratorical powers made him particularly strong as a trial lawyer and he won many notable forensic triumphs.

Mr. Marsh's thorough understanding of the political issues of the day and his fitness for leadership led to his selection for public honors, and he twice served as representative in the state legislature and was also state senator, discharging his duties with marked promptness and fidelity and to the entire satisfaction of his constituents. He gave careful and earnest thought and investigation to the questions affecting the public welfare and was ever able to support his position by intelligent arguments. He was a deep and logical thinker and his judgment was sound.

Mr. Marsh was united in marriage to Miss Rachel Bloomfield, a daughter of Nathaniel Bloomfield. She is still living, at the age of eighty-three years, and four of her six children yet survive, namely: Eleanora, widow of Theodore Hardy, of Washington, D. C.; Frances, wife of Charles Tuttle, of Eaton; Felix; and William B., who is practicing at the Preble county bar. Mr. Marsh was a man of scholarly attainments and of cultivated literary tastes. He was familiar with the classics and was particularly well versed in ancient and modern history. Through their writings he made friends with the master minds of all ages, and many of his most pleasant hours were spent in his library. As a citizen he was deeply interested in everything pertaining to the public welfare. Strong in his individuality, he never lacked the courage of his convictions, but there were as dominating elements in that individuality a living human sympathy and an abiding charity, which, when taken in connection with the

sterling integrity and honor of his character, naturally gained the respect and confidence of men.

SAMUEL MITCHELL.

Since early pioneer days Samuel Mitchell has resided in Preble county and through many decades has watched with interest the progress and advancement of this section of the state. He has ever borne his part in the work of improvement as a loyal citizen and as one whose public spirit has been manifest in his active co-operation with many measures that have contributed to the public good. He was born in Jefferson township, on the 29th of July, 1831, and belongs to an old Kentucky family. His father, John Mitchell, was born in Kentucky, March 16, 1787, and was there reared and married. About 1810 he came to Preble county, where he secured a tract of land from the government in Jefferson township, and began the development of a farm, upon which he made his home until his death, which occurred April 25, 1847. His wife was in her maidenhood Miss Betsy Bilben. She, too, was a native of Kentucky, born January 1, 1790, and for eighty-two years she traveled life's journey. Her parents were natives of Ireland. John Mitchell had ten children: Sally, born February 4, 1809; Polly, born February 23, 1811; Robert M., born November 11, 1813; Berten, born August 17, 1816; Peter, born November 16, 1818; John B., born April 24, 1821; Lewis F., born June 18, 1824; Cornelius, born April 20, 1826; and Franklin, born April 8, 1829.

Mr. Mitchell is the youngest of the ten children and was reared in his native county, upon a farm, which his father entered

from the government. He bore his part in the work of the field and meadow and thus gained good, practical knowledge, which well fitted him for his own career as an agriculturist in later life. He was married December 9, 1855, to Margaret Simpson, who was born in Butler county, January 1, 1838, a daughter of Jeremiah and Nancy (Bare) Simpson, also natives of this county. Mrs. Mitchell is the eldest of five daughters born of her father's first marriage. By his second union he had four daughters and a son. He was also a third time married, but had no children. Mrs. Mitchell was reared in Jefferson township. Her mother died when she was but five years of age and she made her home in the family of John Shurman until she gave her hand in marriage to Mr. Mitchell and went to a home of her own. The young couple began their domestic life upon the old Mitchell homestead and there remained until 1889, when he put aside business cares and removed to New Paris. Their home was blessed with the presence of seven children: Francis, who was born December 29, 1856, and married Dora Woofter; Flora E., who was born August 29, 1858, and is the wife of W. H. Alford, of Brown county, Indiana; Laura V., who was born December 14, 1860, and died June 14, 1861; Harry L., who was born April 14, 1863, and died October 24, 1865; Minnie, who was born October 3, 1866, and is the wife of C. M. Wilcox, a dentist of New Paris; Cora E., who was born October 29, 1870, and died on the 5th of March, 1871; and Merrill E., who was born November 23, 1876, and was married June 2, 1897, to Ruth K. Carlton, their home being now in Jefferson township.

Mr. Mitchell is a staunch Republican in

his political affiliations, having been identified with the party since its organization. He has served as a trustee of the township, has been a member of the agricultural board for several years and has taken a deep, active and commendable interest in everything pertaining to the welfare of the community and its promotion along material, social, educational and religious lines. He is a consistent member of the Christian church, serving as one of its deacons, and for some time he filled the office of school director, the cause of education finding in him a warm friend. Socially he belongs to the Masonic fraternity and to the Odd Fellows lodge of New Paris. He is one of the oldest settlers of the county, having through sixty-nine years witnessed the growth, development and advancement of this section of the state. He is familiar with its history from an early day and through a long, active and useful life he has ever merited the confidence and regard of his fellow townsmen.

HENRY M. HOFFMAN.

This honored veteran of the civil war and well-known farmer, residing on section 2, Harrison township, Preble county, Ohio, was born April 23, 1839, in Perry county, Pennsylvania, of which state his parents, Samuel and Elizabeth (Good) Hoffman, were also natives, the former born in Perry county, the latter in Dauphin county. Both were of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. The paternal grandfather, John Hoffman, was also born in Perry county, Pennsylvania, but his last days were passed in Montgomery county, Ohio, where his death occurred. The father of our subject spent his entire life in his native county, dying there at the

age of fifty-four years. The mother was about seventy years of age at the time of her death. They were the parents of eleven children, three of whom died young.

Of this family, Henry M. Hoffman is the fourth in order of birth. His early life was passed upon a farm in his native county, and he continued his residence there until after the civil war broke out. In 1862 he enlisted in Company E, One Hundred and Seventy-third Volunteer Infantry, with which he served eleven months, and was then discharged and returned home. In February, 1866, he came to Ohio, and first located in Montgomery county, where he followed farming until 1874, and then removed to Preble county, settling upon the farm of one hundred and sixty acres in Harrison township, where he now resides. He has made general farming his life work and has been fairly successful in his labors.

In Perry county, Pennsylvania, Mr. Hoffman was married, in 1861, to Miss Susanna Long, a native of the same county, and to them were born thirteen children, all of whom are still living with the exception of Calvin. They are Joseph, Kirk, Daniel, Minnie, Perry, Florence, Elizabeth, Samuel, Emma, Watson, Cora and Lester. At present all are married with the exception of Watson and Lester. Most of them reside in Preble county, but some are in Darke and Miami counties, this state, and one is in Nebraska. There are also about thirty grandchildren.

Mr. Hoffman is an honored member of Parmelee Horn Post, No. 622, G. A. R., of Lewisburg, and is a staunch supporter of the Republican party and its principles. He has been school board clerk for many years, and takes a deep and commendable interest in educational affairs.

GEORGE H. FOWBLE.

This gentleman is one of the leading business men of West Sonora, Preble county, Ohio, where, as a dealer in agricultural implements, machinery, buggies, etc., he has built up a large trade, and also conducts a hotel and livery stable. A young man of superior executive ability and of sound judgment, he already occupies an enviable position in business circles, and has a fine prospect of reaching the topmost round of the ladder of prosperity.

Mr. Fowble was born in Harrison township, Preble county, August 5, 1867, a son of Peter A. and Elizabeth (Lock) Fowble. His maternal grandfather, Jacob Lock, was one of the early settlers of his county. On the paternal side he traces his ancestry back to his great-grandfather, who came to this country from Germany and settled in Maryland. The grandfather, George Fowble, was born in that state, and died in Darke county, Ohio, when about ninety years of age. Our subject's father was also a native of Maryland and as a boy came to Preble county, Ohio, with his parents, being reared in Harrison township, where he attended school conducted in a log school house. The family was one of the first to settle in that township, and he assisted in the arduous task of transforming a thickly wooded tract into a highly cultivated farm, through which the railroad subsequently passed. He was a staunch supporter of the Republican party, and an active and prominent member of the United Brethren church, of which he was a trustee at the time of his death. He also served as a class leader and filled other church offices. He died upon his farm, at the age of eighty-eight years; the mother of our subject, who was probably born in this county, died at

the age of sixty-two. To them were born five children, namely: Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Frazer, of Harrison township; Wesley, a resident of the same township; George H., our subject; Mollie, the wife of David Rookstool, of Harrison township; and Augusta, also a resident of Harrison township. The father was three times married, and by the first union had three children, by the second, one. The mother of our subject was his third wife.

George H. Fowble was reared in much the usual manner of farmer boys, assisting in the labors of the farm and attending the district schools of the neighborhood when his services were not needed at home. On the 25th of December, 1888, he was united in marriage with Miss Flora Pyles, who was born in Montgomery county, this state, and reared in Preble, Montgomery and Darke counties. By this union have been born two sons, Archie and Glenn.

Mr. Fowble remained upon the home farm until 1893, when he removed to West Sonora and embarked in his present business. He handles all kinds of agricultural implements, wagons and buggies, and in 1899 sold sixty-three binders and mowers. He also deals in tobacco. He owns his hotel and livery stable, and to the latter he has added eight hundred dollars' worth of improvements in the last two years, making a fine barn. He keeps two men in his employ most of the time, and is to-day the leading business man of the village. Besides his property in West Sonora, he still owns one-half of the old homestead, his brother, John, having the remainder of the farm. He is enterprising, energetic and thoroughly reliable, and the success that he has achieved is certainly well merited. His sympathies are with the Republican party,

but aside from voting he takes no active part in politics, preferring to devote his entire time and attention to his business interests. He is a trustee of the United Brethren church, having succeeded his father in that office.

ELKANAH C. CRIDER.

The world instinctively pays deference to the man whose success has been worthily achieved, and who has reached a high position in the business world. This is a progressive age, and he who does not advance is soon left far behind. By the improvement of opportunities by which all are surrounded Mr. Crider has steadily and honorably worked his way upward and has attained a fair degree of prosperity.

A native of Preble county, he was born in Harrison township, September 20, 1854, and is a son of John and Catherine (Disher) Crider. His paternal grandfather was Samuel Crider, a native of Pennsylvania, who came to Preble county at an early day, and was engaged in farming and milling, owning and operating a mill on Twin creek, near Lewisburg. He died at the age of fifty-four years. The father of our subject spent his entire life in this county and followed the occupation of farming. He died May 11, 1888, at the age of fifty-nine years. In politics he was a Republican and in religious belief a Lutheran. The mother of our subject was born in Virginia, but was only two years old when brought to Preble county by her parents, and was reared on a farm in Harrison township. Her father, Christian Disher, also a native of Virginia, purchased a tract of government land in Harrison township, for which he paid one dollar and a quarter per acre, and upon

that farm spent the remainder of his life, dying at the age of about eighty years.

Elkanah C. Crider is the fourth in order of birth in a family of six children and the only one now living. His boyhood was passed on a farm one mile east of Lewisburg, and he attended both the district and town schools, acquiring a good practical education, which enabled him to engage successfully in teaching for two years, having charge of the grammar school of Lewisburg one year. In early life he assisted in the operation of the home farm and continued to engage in agricultural pursuits for several years.

On the 1st of January, 1878, Mr. Crider married Miss Sarah Hahn, who was born in Adams county, Pennsylvania, July 13, 1854, and came to Preble county, Ohio, with a brother in 1874. She is the fourth in order of birth in a family of six children, whose parents were Andrew and Susan (Witmore) Hahn, also natives of the Keystone state, and of Pennsylvania Dutch descent. She lost her mother when six years old and was reared by John and Rilla Rebert. Mr. and Mrs. Crider have three children: Katie, born April 4, 1880; Earl, born January 6, 1884; and Lazzie, born April 2, 1888.

After his marriage Mr. Crider engaged in general farming east of Lewisburg until 1895, when he removed to that town, and has since engaged in buying and shipping grain as a member of the firm of Adam Stupp & Company. They own a warehouse at that place, and Mr. Crider still owns his farm of one hundred and eighty acres on sections 34 and 35, Harrison township. He is one of the stockholders and directors of the People's Banking Company, of Lewisburg, and in 1899 purchased a grist-mill,

which he is now successfully operating. It can be run either by water or steam power, and is used in the manufacture of flour.

Mr. Crider is a Republican in politics and his paternal grandfather was one of the first Abolitionists in his section of the county. Although he lived in a Democratic township, our subject was called upon to fill the office of trustee many terms, his fellow citizens appreciating his worth and ability. He is an active and prominent member of the Grange and also of the Lutheran church, having held some office in the church and Sunday school since nineteen years of age, and now serving as elder. As a citizen, friend and neighbor he is true to every duty and justly merits the esteem in which he is held.

GEORGE W. GEBHART.

Prominent among the agriculturists of Harrison township is numbered this gentleman, whose home is on section 9. No one in the community is better known, for his entire life has been spent there, and all his interests from boyhood have been closely associated with those of that locality. In his chosen occupation he has met with success, and by the energy and zeal which he has manifested he has won the confidence and esteem of the public.

Mr. Gebhart was born upon his present farm, January 29, 1840, a son of David and Margaret (Pence) Gebhart, natives of Pennsylvania and Virginia, respectively. The father, who was of Pennsylvania-Dutch extraction, came to Preble county at an early day and took up his residence on the farm where our subject now resides. He died there when our subject was only a year old.

The mother was very young when she came to this county, and she survived her husband for some time, dying when past the age of sixty years.

Of the six children born to this worthy couple, George W. Gebhart is the fourth in order of birth. He never left the old homestead, and has never been away from home for more than nine days at a time. He was married in Harrison township, in 1861, to Miss Amanda Wolf, who was born there, and they have become the parents of three children, namely: Leonidas, deceased; Mary Jane, the wife of Joseph McCrate, of Darke county, Ohio; and Cranga, at home, who married Opal, a daughter of David Brown, and has one son, Oscar E.

Mr. Gebhart follows general farming and has a well improved place of eighty acres. He is a supporter of the Democratic party, and has efficiently served as school director in his district. He assisted in building the turnpikes and in clearing many acres of timber land in Preble county, thus materially aiding in its development and prosperity. He is eminently public-spirited and progressive, and always has the best interests of the community at heart.

ALLEN GARBER.

Allen Garber is a leading farmer and representative citizen of Harrison township, Preble county, Ohio, whose home is on section 16. He evidences by the manner in which he carries on his business that he thoroughly understands the vocation in which he is engaged, and success is attending his efforts toward acquiring a competency. Neatness and order prevail upon his place, which is managed, with regard to its culti-

vation, in a manner which reflects great credit upon the owner.

Mr. Garber was born in Perry township, Montgomery county, Ohio, February 6, 1838, and is a son of Jonathan and Catharine (Rife) Garber, who was born, reared and married in Rockingham county, Virginia. At an early day they came to Montgomery county, this state and first located in Madison township, but subsequently spent some time in Perry township, and then returned to Madison township, where they continued to make their home throughout the remainder of their lives. Both were faithful members of the Dunkard church, and the father was a Democrat in politics. He died at the age of seventy-six years, his wife at the age of seventy-three. They were the parents of seventeen children, two of whom died in infancy, but the others, six sons and nine daughters, are still living. One resides in Indiana, two in Illinois, and the others in Montgomery, Preble and Darke counties, Ohio. All are married except two daughters. Both the paternal and maternal grandfathers of our subject, John Garber and Jacob Rife, were natives of Germany, and when young men came to the United States, locating in Virginia, where they married and reared families. In religious belief they were Dunkards. John Garber spent his last days in Madison township, Montgomery county, Ohio, where he died at about the age of seventy-seven years.

The subject of this sketch is the oldest of the living children in his father's family. He attended the public schools of Montgomery county during the winter months and assisted in the work of the home farm in early life, remaining under the parental roof until he was married, in 1867, to Miss Catharine Kimmel. Both children born of

that union died in infancy. Mr. Garber was again married, March 21, 1876, his second union being with Miss Adaline Hapner, by whom he has five children: Lee R., now a typewriter operator in Indianapolis, Indiana; and Alpha, Virgil M., Nina I. and Vinia B., all at home.

In 1867 Mr. Garber came to Preble county and first located on section 29, Harrison township, where he made his home for two years. At the end of that time he removed to the west part of section 16, but now resides on the east half of the same section. He has a fine farm of one hundred and seventy-two acres under a high state of cultivation and improved with good and substantial buildings. In connection with farming he was engaged in the farm-implement business in West Sonora from 1878 to 1884, but now gives his entire time and attention to agricultural pursuits. By his ballot he supports the men and measures of the Democratic party, and he takes an active and prominent part in local politics, being three times elected township trustee, and serving as land appraiser in 1889 and 1890. He is well and favorably known and has a host of warm friends in the community where he has so long made his home.

THOMAS F. RYDER.

Thomas F. Ryder, who is engaged in farming in Lanier township, was born on the 10th of August, 1848, and is one of the ten children of John and Hannah (Gephart) Ryder. His grandfather, Jacob Ryder, was born in Pennsylvania and was of German lineage, his grandfather having come from Germany to the United States at an early period in the development of this country.

John Ryder was born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania, November 17, 1812, and when sixteen years of age accompanied his father to Ohio. They took up their abode in Montgomery county, near Liberty, where John Ryder was married to Hannah Gephart. She was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, August 13, 1816, a daughter of Henry Gephart. With her parents she came to Ohio when a maiden of twelve years, the family locating in Montgomery county, near Liberty, where her parents lived and died.

Soon after his marriage John Ryder came with his young wife to Preble county and purchased one hundred and twenty acres of land in Lanier township, upon which his son, James, is now living. In the spring of 1876 he purchased one hundred and twenty-seven acres of land in Twin township, a mile west of West Alexandria, and with his family removed to his new home, leaving the subject of this sketch upon the old farmstead. There the father continued to reside until his death, which occurred March 30, 1887. He was a consistent member of the Reformed church, in which he served as deacon or elder during the greater part of his life. His political support was given the Democracy. His wife, too, was an active and earnest member of the Reformed church, and on the 6th of April, 1899, she was called to her final rest. Of the ten children born unto this worthy couple seven are yet living. In order of birth they are as follows: Mary, the wife of Henry Glander, of Lanier township; Sarah, deceased; Samuel, a farmer of Twin township; Catherine, the wife of Daniel Giddeon, of Montgomery county; Elizabeth, the wife of Henry Pundt, of Harrison township; John H. and Jacob, both deceased; Thomas F.; Martha

J., who is the wife of Detrick S. Glander, a farmer of Lanier township; and David F.

Upon the home farm Thomas F. Ryder was reared and early became familiar with all the duties and labors that fall to the lot of the agriculturist. He pursued his education in the common schools and at the age of twenty-two assumed the management of the home farm, his father retiring from active business life. He has been very successful in his farming operations, also as a stock dealer, and is regarded as one of the substantial residents of his community. His methods are practical and progressive. In all his dealings he is strictly honorable, and through the careful conduct of his affairs he has gained a comfortable competence.

On the 6th of June, 1872, Mr. Ryder wedded Miss Mary Alice Sauer, a native of Twin township and a daughter of William and Sarah A. (Potterf) Sauer. Her father was a native of Germany and with his parents came to America when a young man, taking up his abode in Butler county, Ohio. Some years afterward he removed to Twin township, Preble county, where he spent his remaining days. His widow, however, still survives and is now living in West Alexandria. She was born in Lanier township, Preble county, a daughter of Joseph Potterf, one of the early settlers of this locality. After his marriage Mr. Ryder continued to operate the home farm and after his father removed to Twin township, in the spring of 1876, he rented the place for a year. On the expiration of that period he purchased it and has since made it his place of abode. The home of Mr. and Mrs. Ryder has been blessed with one child, Minerva, now the wife of Oris Brubaker. His father-in-law assists in the operation of the farm. Mr. Ryder exercises

his right of franchise in support of the men and measures of the Democracy. He and his wife hold membership in the Reformed church and he contributes liberally to the support of all worthy charities and benevolent movements. His worth as a man and citizen is widely acknowledged and his circle of friends in Preble county is very extensive.

LEVI M. PONTIUS.

Levi M. Pontius is a prominent farmer of Preble county, who is successfully carrying on agricultural pursuits in Twin township. Washington said that "agriculture is the most useful as well as the most honorable of all occupations," and this is as true to-day as when uttered. Upon the farmer depends the commercial activity of the country. The crops and stock which he raises give the world its food supply, and the purchase and sale of the farm products form the basis of all business. Mr. Pontius has long been identified with farming interests in this locality, and is numbered among the native sons of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Clay township, Montgomery county, on the 4th of February, 1846. He is a son of John and Nancy (Marsh) Pontius and their only child to reach years of maturity. The father was born in Berks county, Pennsylvania, May 9, 1817, and was a son of Frederick Pontius, a native of Germany, who came to America soon after his marriage, taking up his abode in Berks county, where he resided until 1825. He then came to Ohio, locating three miles east of Winchester, in Montgomery county, where he purchased eighty acres of land, making his home thereon until his death, which occurred when he had reached an advanced

age. He was a highly esteemed pioneer farmer of the community and enjoyed the regard of all with whom he came in contact.

Upon the old homestead farm John Pontius was reared. In 1840 he married Miss Nancy Marsh, who was born four miles southeast of Germantown, in Montgomery county, on the 29th of January, 1814. Her father was a substantial farmer of the community, owning a valuable tract of land of four hundred acres. Soon after his marriage Mr. Pontius purchased and located upon eighty acres of land in Clay township, Montgomery county, where he made his home until 1850, when he sold that farm and purchased the place in Preble county upon which his son, Levi, now resides. There he passed his remaining days, being called to the home beyond August 5, 1875. He served as a trustee of his township, was a school director for many years and was a public-spirited citizen, who gave his co-operation to every movement calculated to prove of public good. Socially he was connected with the Masonic order and in politics in early life he was a Democrat. After the inauguration of the civil war he joined the ranks of the Republican party. In all business transactions he was straightforward and in every relation of life was honorable and upright. He commanded the confidence of his fellow men, and at his death the community lost one of its valued citizens.

Levi M. Pontius was reared to manhood under the parental roof and attended the common schools near his home, but his educational privileges were somewhat limited and his knowledge has been acquired largely through reading, observation and experience. On the 4th of July, 1869, he was

united in marriage to Mary L. V. Westerfield, a native of Pymont, Montgomery county, Ohio, and a daughter of Isaac and Sarah E. (Pierson) Westerfield. Her father was a member of Company I, Seventy-first Ohio Volunteer Infantry, during the civil war, and died from the effects of exposure at the battle of Pittsburg Landing. His wife, a native of New Jersey, was a daughter of Isaac and Hannah (Ayres) Pierson, who came to Ohio when Mrs. Westerfield was only two years of age, making the journey by team and wagon. They located in Twin township, Preble county, becoming valued pioneer settlers of the community.

For three years prior to his marriage Mr. Pontius had engaged in operating the home farm upon shares, and after his marriage, as he was the only child, the farm was deeded to him, his father making his home with the son until his death. In 1876 Mr. Pontius erected on his land a handsome brick residence, which is to-day one of the most substantial and desirable country homes in Preble county. In 1881 he built a large barn and has made many other improvements which add to the value and attractive appearance of the place. In recent years he has devoted much of his attention to the raising of cattle and in that branch of his business is very successful. Everything about his place is neat and thrifty in appearance, the fields are well tilled, buildings kept in good repair and everything shows the careful supervision of a progressive owner.

The home of Mr. and Mrs. Pontius has been blessed with five children: Clyde W., who married Miss Edna Ridenour, of Greene county, Ohio, and lives in Harrison township, Preble county; Clara M., now deceased; Lucy N. and John L., both at home;

and Sarah E., who has also passed away. The parents and their living children are active members of the Lutheran church, and the family is one of the most highly esteemed in the county. For eleven years Mr. Pontius has served as a church officer, being either deacon or elder, and he does all in his power to promote the work of the church along its various lines. For many years he has served as school director and the cause of education finds in him a warm friend. In politics he is a staunch Republican and keeps well informed on the issues of the day, yet has never sought or desired office; preferring to devote his energies to his business interests, in which he has met with creditable and richly merited success, being to-day regarded as one of the progressive, practical and well-to-do agriculturists of his community.

JOHN QUILL.

John Quill is a representative of one of the old and highly respected families in Preble county. He is numbered among the native sons of Ohio, his birth having occurred in Jefferson township, this county, on the 25th of June, 1859. Thomas Quill, his grandfather, was born on the Emerald Isle, and the father, John Quill, was born in county Kerry, Ireland, on the 1st of December, 1827. He spent his childhood and youth in the land of his nativity, but, thinking better opportunities were afforded young men in the new world, he made plans to take up his abode in America.

Bidding adieu to home and friends, he crossed the Atlantic, landing at New Orleans, Louisiana, on the 2d of February, 1852. Making his way northward he came to Ohio and entered the employ of Moses

Conger in Sugar Valley, Dixon township. For some time he continued to work by the month, after which he rented land belonging to David Sands. His industry and careful management at length enabled him to acquire some capital and in 1860 he invested this in land, purchasing eighty acres in Jackson township, of Samuel Mitchell. Previous to this time he had resided upon this farm for three years, and after the purchase he made it his home for six years. In 1867 he purchased the farm upon which his son John now resides and made it his home until his death. He was at that time the owner of a valuable property of two hundred and sixty-five acres. All the improvements upon the place stand as monuments to his thrift and enterprise, for his possessions were acquired entirely through his unaided efforts, save for the assistance of his estimable wife, who proved to him a capable helpmeet in life's journey. She managed the household affairs very economically and assisted him in other ways to get a good start in life. His political views were in harmony with the principles of Democracy and he was very active and prominent in the work of his party. In religious faith he was a zealous Catholic and contributed generously to the support of his church. His wife bore the maiden name of Mary Gullivan and was a daughter of Jeremiah Gullivan, of the state of Iowa. She was reared about half a mile from the early home of Mr. Quill, but she became acquainted with him in this country while working for a family at West Florence. On the 24th of November, 1854, their marriage was celebrated, at which time the lady was only sixteen years of age. As before stated, she was very efficient and the assistance she ren-

dered him was a very important factor in his prosperity. She superintended the affairs of the household, while he gave his energies to the work of the farm and the care of his stock, having on his place a high grade of cattle, horses and hogs.

Mr. and Mrs. Quill were the parents of twelve children, of whom seven are now living, namely: Ella, the wife of Lafayette Spacht; Jeremiah M., a contractor and builder of Cincinnati; John, of this review; Thomas A., who is also a contractor and builder of Cincinnati; Michael F., another member of the firm in Cincinnati; Mary Ann, the wife of George Poos, a hardware merchant of Eaton, Illinois; and James W., who is with his brother Jeremiah in Cincinnati.

John Quill, whose name introduces this review, pursued his studies in the common schools, gaining a fair knowledge of the English branches of learning, whereby he was fitted for life's practical duties. He remained with his father until twenty-three years of age, when he went to Cincinnati and engaged in contracting for three years. On the expiration of that period he entered the service of the street railway company, with which he was connected for two and a half years. He conducted a coal office and feed store for some time and was at one time a dealer in horses, buying and selling fine stock. For three years he was on the police force of Cincinnati, but in 1898 he returned to Preble to take part of the old homestead, which he has since conducted in the interest of his mother and the other heirs. He keeps on hand the highest grades of cattle and is a successful and enterprising farmer who believes in advancement along all lines. His political support is

given the Democracy. In the care and management of his property he displays much of the marked business ability which characterized his father.

CLEM COOPER.

Actively connected with the farming interests of Washington township, Mr. Cooper has spent his entire life in Preble county and now operates the old homestead property of eighty-two acres. He was born August 19, 1868, and is of Irish lineage. For many generations the family resided in county Louth, Ireland, and some of the representatives of the name became very prominent in public affairs. The great-grandfather of our subject was Michael Cooper, a native of county Louth, where also occurred the birth of the grandfather, Henry Cooper. The father, Michael Cooper, Jr., was born in that county, December 25, 1829, and spent his minority on the Emerald Isle and in early manhood determined to seek a home across the Atlantic, believing that he might better his financial condition by emigrating to the new world. Accordingly he sailed, landing at Philadelphia on the 1st of April, 1851, after a voyage of twenty-eight days, made in a sailing vessel. He did not tarry long at Philadelphia, but went to Wilmington, Delaware, and in the vicinity of that city was employed upon a farm for sixty years. On the 1st of March, 1857, he removed to Ohio and began work for Guy Bloom in Jefferson township.

In the fall of 1862, however, he returned to Philadelphia in order to enlist in the ranks at President Lincoln's call for loyal men to aid in crushing out the rebellion. He had some friends in Philadelphia who were intending to join the army, and in order

to be with them at the front he joined Company C, of the One Hundred and Nineteenth Pennsylvania Infantry, with which command he saw much hard service. He participated in the second battle of Bull Run, in the engagements at Antietam and South Mountain and in many smaller battles. At length, becoming ill, he was sent to the hospital, but accommodations were there so poor that he had both feet frozen. In February, 1864, on account of his disability, he received an honorable discharge and returned to Ohio.

Here he began work by the day, but in 1866 rented a farm near the place on which our subject resides. In 1882 he purchased the property on which his son, Clem, is now living, and since that time he has added to his landed possessions. The comfortable competence which he has acquired now enables him to live retired. His has been a well spent, active and useful life, and by untiring energy he has worked his way steadily upward to a position of affluence. On the 8th of March, 1868, he was married to Miss Elizabeth Pine, a daughter of Peter Pine, of Preble county.

Clem Cooper, their only child, was reared under the parental roof, pursued his education in the local schools and began work on the farm as soon as he was old enough to handle the plow. Through the summer months he assisted in the cultivation of the fields, and when the golden grain was ready for the harvest he aided in gathering it into the barns. Upon his father's retirement to private life, in 1892, he took charge of the farm in Washington township, of eighty-two acres, and, in addition to the cultivation of grain best adapted to this climate, he successfully engaged in raising fine hogs, cattle and poultry. He owns some

very fine short horn cattle with excellent pedigrees, and sells his cattle and poultry over a wide territory, farmers coming from long distances to make purchases. He has a very enviable reputation as a leading stock-raiser and has done much to improve the grade of farm animals raised in this part of Ohio. His farming operations are carried on along progressive lines and the latest improved machinery and substantial buildings indicate that he is an active and enterprising agriculturist.

On the 30th of August, 1890, occurred the marriage of Mr. Cooper and Miss Minnie Schwartzel. Their union has been blessed with two children, Claud and Fern. Mr. Cooper is a member of the Preble county vigilance committee, a progressive citizen who gives his aid and co-operation to every movement and measure which he believes will prove of public good. He is widely known as a farmer and stock raiser, and certainly deserves great credit for what he has done in behalf of the improvement of farm animals. He has studied quite closely their needs, understands the best methods of feeding and caring for his stock and at no time are his horses and cattle allowed to suffer any neglect. This intelligent supervision has given him a very desirable reputation and he is now accounted one of the leading business men of this township.

JESSE KENWORTHY.

Jesse Kenworthy is one of the oldest farmers of Gratis township, Preble county. His life has been a long, useful and active one, and his later years are crowned with the veneration and respect which should ever be accorded to one well advanced in age

whose career has been honorable and trustworthy. He was born February 14, 1817, on the farm where he yet resides, in his forty-eighth year. His father, Jesse Kenworthy, Sr., was a native of North Carolina, and in 1805 removed from that state to the Buckeye state with his wife and two children. His home was on the seashore, two hundred miles from Charleston, South Carolina, and there he lived for some time prior to his removal to the Buckeye state. He married Rachel Cook, of that state, whose father was a planter. The two families came to Preble county and the grandfather Cook settled near the Kenworthy homestead, upon an adjoining farm. Each family secured a quarter-section of land from the government, for which was paid two dollars per acre. They were not in very good circumstances financially, but had money enough to pay for their land and thus gained a good start. Mr. Kenworthy is one of five children and with one exception all are married and had families, namely: William; John; Mary; Sallie, who died at the age of six years; and Jesse, who is the only survivor of the family. The mother died in 1829 at the age of fifty-eight years, her birth having occurred in 1771. The father passed away in 1858, at the advanced age of ninety years. They were members of the Society of Friends and became prosperous people.

Mr. Kenworthy, whose name introduces this review, was reared under the parental roof and was married April 26, 1838, to Mary Longston, who was born in Butler county, October 21, 1819, three miles from his home. Five children graced their marriage. John K. the eldest, is a real-estate dealer of Wichita, Kansas, and has a daughter and one son, and the daughter has a

child which is the only great-grandchild of our subject now living. Mrs. Susan Stubbs, the second member of the Kenworthy family, is living in this neighborhood and has one daughter. Rachel C. is the wife of John F. Stubbs, and they have a daughter and a son, Zinai. He is one of the extensive land-owners of Preble county, having seven hundred acres in this locality, together with two farms in Illinois, other property in Kansas and a section of land in Texas. He has thus become very wealthy.

Mr. and Mrs. Kenworthy have spent their entire married life upon the farm which is still their home. A portion of the house was built in 1849, an addition was made in 1852 and a second in 1859. The old barn on the place was erected in 1814, and is still standing, in a good state of preservation. It was built of hewed logs. In 1851, however, another barn was built. Mr. Kenworthy has carried on general farming, but has given the greater part of his time and attention to the raising of hogs, selling more than two hundred head annually, at an average weight of three hundred pounds. One year he sold two hundred and fifty-seven hogs in one drove. He makes a specialty of the breeding of black or Poland China, some of which attain to the weight of three hundred and seventy pounds. He has probably sold more hogs than any other man in the county, and his business has been a very profitable and extensive one, bringing to him a handsome income, which now supplies him with all the comforts and many of the luxuries of life.

Both Mr. and Mrs. Kenworthy are active and consistent members of the Society of Friends. In the Preble county history there is an account relating how Jesse Kenworthy, Sr., came to Ohio, in 1805, and set-

tled on section 32, Gratis township. He traveled with a colony which came by land, driving their own teams, and after a long, tedious journey arrived here in the woods. Like many of the early settlers, they made the best arrangements possible until they could erect their first temporary home, a log or pole cabin. Mr. and Mrs. Kenworthy, of this review, began their domestic life on the old home farm, which his father willed to him, and this has been their residence for many years and here he has awaited that last summons to join the innumerable multitude in that mysterious realm, where each occupies his chamber in the silent halls of the dead; and, having suffered greatly, he will welcome the message, approaching his grave with an unfaltering trust,

Wrapping the drapery of his couch around him
As one who lies down to pleasant dreams.

FELIX M. MARSH, JR.

In a profession where advancement is dependent on knowledge and subsequent success is achieved only through individual merit, it is a wise provision of nature that learning cannot be inherited, that all enter the world on an equal intellectual footing, except as to capacity, and thus are dependent upon their own labor and application for the knowledge which fits them for life's practical duties. Each individual must master the same rudiments of learning, and when this is done he has thus formed the ability to carry his investigations still farther along professional lines which fit them for a particular work. It is true that with only an elementary education some may enter certain lines of business and attain success, or by inheritance or influence they may secure control of an al-

ready established business; but in professional life prosperity and success depend solely upon the efforts of the individual and his close application, his mastery of scientific principles and his ability to apply these to the affairs of life. Greater credit is therefore due one who owes his prosperity and enviable business standing to his own labors, as does Mr. Marsh. He now enjoys an enviable reputation at the Preble county bar, being recognized as a leading lawyer of Eaton. Born in this city on the 15th of May, 1843, he was educated in the common schools and in the Miami University, at Oxford. Throat trouble prevented him from enlisting in the war, although he was an ardent advocate of the Union cause.

In 1865 he went to Washington, where he was employed in the postoffice department until 1872. He studied law with his father as his preceptor and was admitted to practice at the capital city in 1871. The following year he returned to Eaton and opened an office here. In 1873 his father died and he and his brother became his successors. He has engaged in general law practice and has been very successful in criminal law, his reputation in that line extending throughout the state. He has tried cases in the United States courts in Cincinnati and is widely known for his ability in this direction. His arguments are logical and convincing and his deductions follow in natural sequence. He has won for himself very favorable criticism for the careful and systematic methods which he has followed. He has remarkable powers of concentration and application and his retentive mind has often excited the surprise of his professional colleagues. As an orator he stands high, especially in the discussion of legal matters before the court, where his comprehensive

knowledge of the law is manifest and his application of legal principles demonstrates the wide range of his professional acquirements. The utmost care and precision characterizes his preparation of a case and have made him one of the most successful attorneys in Eaton.

On the 1st of December, 1865, was celebrated the marriage of Mr. Marsh and Miss Emma Yost, a daughter of Samuel Yost, of Pennsylvania, and a representative of one of the early families of Preble county. They have had five children, namely: Fanny, William, May, Maud and Edgar. In fraternal circles Mr. Marsh is prominent. For two years he was at the head of the Knights of Honor of this state. He is also a valued member of the Masonic fraternity. Having spent almost his entire life in Eaton, he is well known here, and many of his best friends are those with whom he has been acquainted since boyhood, showing that in all ways his career has been worthy of regard.

MRS. CATHERINE MYERS.

Mrs. Catherine Meyers is one of the venerable ladies of Preble county, being now in her eighty-seventh year. She has long resided in this section of the state and her many estimable qualities have gained her the warm regard of many friends. She is of Holland lineage and her parents were Philip and Anna (Bennett) Peters, farming people of Pennsylvania, who removed from the Keystone state to Ohio. They had eleven children, ten of whom reached adult age, but only three are now living, namely: Mrs. Myers, Cyrus, who is a farmer and makes his home in the village of Mazon; and William, an agriculturist, who also has other ex-

tensive business interests in Illinois. He has one son.

Mrs. Myers was born in 1814, and under the parental roof was reared, assisting in the household duties and other labors that well fitted her for the care of a home of her own. She was trained to habits of industry, economy and good management. On the 30th of June, 1837, she gave her hand in marriage to Jacob B. Myers, a native of Rising Sun, Ohio. When a young man he went to Cincinnati, and thirty-three years ago settled upon the farm in Somers township, upon which Mrs. Myers now resides. The tract comprises one hundred and twenty acres and to its cultivation and development Mr. Myers devoted his energies until his death, which occurred in 1886, when he had reached the age of seventy-six years. He was a man of marked industry, possessing resolute purpose and keen discrimination in business affairs. His dealings were characterized by unqualified integrity, and he therefore enjoyed the high regard and confidence of all with whom he came in contact. In his work he was ably assisted by his estimable wife, whose labors proved an excellent supplement to his own. Thus they acquired a handsome property, and thereby Mrs. Myers is now surrounded by many of the comforts of life.

This worthy couple had three children who yet survive, namely: Winfield, who lives with his mother; Amanda, the wife of Joseph Walters, by whom she has seven children; and William, a farmer of Somers township, who has three sons. Three members of the family are deceased: Lavina, who died at the age of forty-four years; Theodore, who died at the age of fifty-four years, leaving two sons; and Henry, who died at the age of thirty, leaving a son and daughter.

At the time of their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Myers had no capital, but the united efforts of husband and wife enabled them to yearly add to their possessions and they ultimately became the owner of what is known as the Robert Patterson farm. The old home upon the place is nearly a century old. The farm is operated by Winfield, who raises wheat, corn and oats, feeding the two latter crops to his stock. He also operates another tract of land, making altogether about two hundred acres. Mrs. Myers has lived a long and useful life, has brought up a family who are a credit to her name and has so lived as to win the esteem of all with whom she has been brought in contact.

WILLIAM H. SNYDER.

This honored and highly esteemed citizen of Lewisburg, Ohio, was born in Baltimore, Maryland, September 18, 1825, and on both the paternal and maternal sides is of German descent. His father, Richard Snyder, was born, reared and educated in Baltimore and there followed the baker's trade throughout his active business life. In that city he married Melki Beck, who was born near Cumberland, Maryland, and was a daughter of Richard Beck, also a native of Maryland. The latter's father was born in Germany, as was also the paternal great-grandfather of our subject. The grandfather, Peter Snyder, was a life-long resident of Baltimore. To Richard and Melki (Beck) Snyder were born three children, one of whom was William H., our subject. His sister, Mary E., is now the widow of William A. Reading and a resident of Baltimore. His brother, John, died in that city. The mother was again married, her second husband being:

Thomas Winwood, an Englishman, but she had no children by that union.

When fourteen years of age William H. Snyder came to Springfield, Ohio, with his mother and stepfather, and after residing there for about six months they located on a farm near that city, where our subject remained until nineteen years of age. He next made his home in Union, Montgomery county, until 1842, and while there learned the millwright's trade of John B. Watts, remaining with him one year. On coming to Lewisburg, in 1842, he secured work at his trade with W. R. DeRush, by whom he was employed twelve years, working at different places throughout the state. Later he spent a year or more with David Kumler, and then engaged in business for himself as a millwright for two or three years. In 1876 he was elected sheriff of Preble county, and so acceptably did he fill that office that he was re-elected in 1878, serving in all four years. Since then he has devoted his time and attention principally to farming and the tobacco business. In 1866 he removed to Neosho county, Kansas, but after spending about eighteen months there he returned to Preble county, and is now practically living a retired life in Lewisburg.

On the 21st of June, 1845, Mr. Snyder was united in marriage with Miss Sarah A. Moore, a native of Butler county, Ohio, who died April 12, 1896. By that union he had six children, namely: Winfield Scott, at home; Benjamin Franklin, Charles M., Willard F. and Elmer E., all residents of Lewisburg; and Martha, who died at the age of two years. The wife and mother, who was a most estimable lady, was a member of the United Brethren church for twenty years and took an active part in its work.

In the fall of 1861, Mr. Snyder enlisted as a musician in the band of a regiment and served as a member of Company I for a time, being mustered in as a member of the colonel's staff. After serving one year he was honorably discharged, and is now a prominent member of Parmelee Home Post, No. 622, G. A. R., of which he was quartermaster two years, and was also elected surgeon. He is an active worker in the ranks of the Republican party, and has taken quite a prominent and influential part in local politics, having served as the mayor of Lewisburg six years, and a member of the city council several years. The first office he held in the county was that of constable of Harrison township, and he has served as census enumerator in the southern part of that township, and justice of the peace six years. In all of the relations of life he has been found true to every trust reposed in him, and he merits and receives the respect and esteem of all who know him.

JACOB F. STOVER.

Jacob F. Stover, the subject of this sketch, was born January 23, 1820, near Hagerstown, Maryland. His ancestry can be traced back to Dr. George Stover, his grandfather, a physician of note in his day, who spent his entire life in the Old Dominion. He was at one time very wealthy, but met with heavy losses through the depreciation in the value of continental money. He was highly esteemed not only for his ability in his profession, his wealth and social position, but for his kindness and philanthropy. Daniel Stover, the father of our subject, was born in Botetourt county, Virginia, in 1773, resided for a time in

Maryland, and in 1826 came to Ohio. In 1830 he took up his abode in Enterprise, Lanier township, Preble county. He married Miss Susanna Funk, a daughter of Jacob Funk, and the Funks, like the Stovers, were of German descent. Daniel Stover died in Enterprise in the year 1869. His only son was Jacob F. Stover, our subject, but in the family were seven daughters, four older and three younger than he. There are three children living, namely: Elizabeth, the widow of Wilson Eby, living on their farm in Lanier township; Catherine, the widow of Isaac H. Ulrich; and Sarah, the wife of Joseph M. Shank. All but one sister had children and Mrs. Eby was the mother of nine.

Throughout his entire life Jacob F. Stover has been identified with the agricultural interests of Preble county and is one of its most leading and influential farmers. He is still actively identified with the grain and stock raising interests, although he leaves the management of his business largely to his son. His resolute purpose, indefatigable energy and reliable dealing have secured to him excellent success and made him one of the substantial residents of the community. On the 17th of February, 1853, Mr. Stover was united in marriage to Miss Catherine M. Chrisman, who was born March 17, 1829, in Gratis township, a daughter of John and Susanna (Fishbourn) Chrisman. Her mother's first husband was Richard D. Hall, who died in 1818, upon the farm where Mr. and Mrs. Stover now reside. There Mr. and Mrs. Hall located in 1809 and began the cultivation of their tract of one hundred and sixty acres. In 1820, having been left a widow, Mrs. Hall became the wife of John Chrisman. The children of this marriage were

Mrs. Stover, and Elizabeth, who was born December 10, 1822, and became the wife of Henry Riner. The mother died June 10, 1877, at the age of eighty-six years and four months, and the father passed away on the 26th of August, 1887. They were well known and well-to-do farming people and at their death left a good property.

Mr. and Mrs. Stover reside upon the old Chrisman homestead. One child was born to them, John C., whose birth occurred December 31, 1853. He was married October 11, 1883, to Miss Naomi E. Henkel, a native of Farmersville, Ohio, a daughter of Dr. G. C. and Catherine (Martin) Henkel, of Pennsylvania, now living in Farmersville, where the father is successfully practicing medicine. Mrs. J. C. Stover also has one sister living, Orpha, who is now the wife of W. U. Young, and one brother, Vernon Henkel, who is now living in Farmersville. Mr. and Mrs. John C. Stover lost a son, Charles, who died on his second birthday. He was a beautiful and precocious child and his death was a great blow to the family. The living children are: Harry J., born September 19, 1884, a bright youth and a dutiful son, and Susanna Catherine, born July 16, 1891.

John C. Stover remained at home until twenty-nine years of age and was early trained to habits of industry and economy upon the home farm. He early began work in the fields and more and more of the management of the property devolved upon him, for his father was in poor health. He devoted his entire time and energies to the operation of the land and made himself one of the active hands in the fields until it became necessary to devote all of his attention to the supervision and management of his business affairs, which in the meantime had

grown quite large. On his splendid farm a barn 42x64 feet was built, about forty-two years ago, and its substantial construction is shown by the fact that it is still one of the best in the county. A fine and pleasant brick residence was erected in 1884-5. These buildings and all outbuildings are kept well painted and in good repair and everything upon the place indicates his thrift, enterprise, thorough supervision and careful management.

Mr. Stover and his father are Republicans, as were both of his grandfathers. He and his wife are active members and liberal supporters of the Brethren church, of which Mr. Stover's father was one of the founders. They are people of the highest respectability in the community and enjoy the warm regard of many friends. During their active life in Preble county they have exerted their influence for good in many lines of public improvement.

ABRAM P. JOHNSON.

For over four-score years this honored and venerable gentleman has been identified with the interests of Preble county, and for over seventy years has been a resident of New Paris. He was born on the 17th of February, 1815, four miles south of Hamilton, Butler county, Ohio, and is a son of Moses and Mary (Wagner) Johnson, the former a native of Trenton, New Jersey, the latter of Pennsylvania. On the paternal side he is of Scotch descent. It was in 1805 that his father removed to Butler county, Ohio, and in 1817 came to Preble county. He purchased forty acres of land in Jefferson township, upon which he erected a log house, making his home there until his death, which occurred January 5, 1830,

when he was about seventy-four years of age. By trade he was a carpenter. The mother of our subject, who was his second wife, died at about the age of sixty years. He was married three times and had seventeen children, of whom our subject is the youngest and only one now living, though fourteen of the number reached adult age.

Abram P. Johnson was only a year and a half old when the family came to Preble county, and he remained on his father's farm until February 17, 1830, when he removed to New Paris, which place has since been his home. For fifty-five years he followed the tailor's trade and at one time did an extensive business, but is now living a retired life, enjoying a well-earned rest. He is the oldest resident of the town, his father having built the third house there, and has probably made his home in Preble county longer than any other of its citizens.

On the 22d of June, 1842, Mr. Johnson was united in marriage with Miss Sarah J. Davis, of Franklin, Warren county, Ohio, by whom he had one daughter, Mary C., now deceased. The wife and mother died in December, 1844, and for his second wife, Mr. Johnson married Anna Maria Payne. By that union he had three children: Sarah E., the wife of George Young, of New Paris; Charles H. L., who died at the age of two years; and Laura E., deceased. His third wife, who was Rebecca McKenney, is also deceased.

Politically Mr. Johnson has been a lifelong Democrat, and has never missed voting but at two elections since attaining his majority, and both of these were spring elections for township officers. His first presidential ballot was cast for Martin Van Buren. He has always taken an active interest in public affairs, and has been hon-

ored with several local offices, having served as school director, justice of the peace, postmaster of New Paris for ten years, and mayor of the town about two and a half years. He has been a very strong temperance man all his life, and organized the Sons of Temperance and the Washingtonians in New Paris, of which societies he was long an active and prominent member. Although he is not connected with any religious denomination, he is a believer in the doctrines of the Christian church, and has led an honorable, upright and useful life.

HENRY K. BROADBURY.

Henry K. Broadbury is a farmer and dealer in butter and eggs in Israel township, Preble county, his home being on section 35, near the village of Morning Sun, Ohio. He was born in Millford township, Butler county, Ohio, in 1838, his home being near Daretown. His birthplace was the old family farmstead upon which his grandfather, James Broadbury, settled at a very early day. The Broadbury family is of English lineage and was founded in America by the great-grandfather of our subject and his two brothers, who came to the new world prior to the Revolutionary war. They all participated in the struggle and one gave his life upon the altar of his country, thus being numbered among the heroes whose sacrifice brought independence to the nation. The great-grandfather of our subject died about 1853 and his remains were laid to rest in the old graveyard near Daretown. Joseph Broadbury, the father of our subject, was born December 4, 1805, on Four Mile creek, near Daretown, and died in Hanover township, Butler county, in 1850, his death resulting from the kick of a horse. He was married in 1837 to Miss Sarah Ann Waldon,

a daughter of James Waldon, who still survives her husband. She has been a second time married and is now Mrs. Strowhuver, a widow of Butler county, where she lives with her daughter, Mrs. Pottinger, one of the children by her second marriage. By the first marriage she had five children: Henry K., of this sketch; James W., an agriculturist residing at College Corner; Nancy, wife of John Simonson, of College Corner; Mary Elizabeth, widow of George Bartlow; and a son who died in infancy. The children of the second marriage are: William, a dealer in agricultural implements in Indiana, and Charlotte, wife of James Pottinger. The mother is still active in both body and mind, although eighty-four years of age, her birth having occurred October 25, 1816. Mr. and Mrs. Broadbury were farming people residing on the old homestead which the father located in the midst of the forest. He cleared that land, and in his farming met with success, so that he was enabled to give each of his children a fair start in life. In addition to his agricultural pursuits, he operated a saw and grist-mill and also carried on a distillery. When his country became engaged in the second war with England he enlisted, serving in the war of 1812.

Mr. Broadbury, whose name introduces this review, acquired a fair knowledge of the elementary branches of English learning in the district schools, pursuing his studies in a log school house of primitive construction, a portion of a log being removed to form a window. The text books were of various kinds. Mr. Broadbury worked at home, assisting in the cultivation and harvesting of the crops on his father's farm until he was twenty-eight years of age. He then chose as a companion and helpmeet on

life's journey Miss Mary Elizabeth Yeakle, who was born in Hanover township, Butler county, Ohio, December 27, 1843, a daughter of David and Mary (Henninger) Yeakle, the former a native of Butler county, Ohio, and the latter of Pennsylvania. Her father was a farmer by occupation, following that pursuit throughout his business career. In their family were six children, four of whom reached mature years, namely: Julia Ann, wife of Marion Curry, a farmer of Kansas; Michael, who was born in 1845, and is also living in Kansas; Polly Ann, wife of Jacob Henninger; and Mrs. Broadbury. The father of this family passed away at the age of fifty-five years and the mother was called to her final rest fourteen years later, her death occurring on the 4th of March, 1880, when she was sixty-eight years of age.

Mr. and Mrs. Broadbury were married February 16, 1865, and located at two different places before coming to Preble county in 1867. Seven years ago, however, they took up their abode upon the present farm, comprising one hundred and eighty-three acres, and have since made it their home. For thirty-two years Mr. Broadbury has been engaged in raising vegetables and selling butter and eggs, driving his team and covered wagon throughout the county. He buys butter, eggs and poultry, and in handling these products has secured a comfortable competence. In 1866 ill health caused him to lose all that he had saved, but since that time he has acquired a good property, steadily working his way upward by determined purpose and unflagging industry. He built his new home on the hill and moved into it in 1897, while his son remains in the old farm house which was upon the place at the time the farm came into his possession. Other improvements on the place include two

good barns and substantial outbuildings. The son there carries on general farming, raising good crops of grain and stock. He fattens about one hundred fine Chester White hogs annually and keeps a good herd of polled Durham cattle. He sells from five to six hundred bushels of wheat annually, but feeds his corn crop, consisting of about three thousand bushels. Mr. Broadbury and his son purchased their excellent farm at a bargain and it is now one of the most productive and highly improved farms in this section of the state, its present splendid condition being due to their energetic efforts, guided by intelligence and sound practical common sense.

Unto Mr. and Mrs. Broadbury were born three children, but they lost an infant son. Their other son, David Joseph, who has been mentioned as operating and owning the homestead farm, was born April 19, 1867, and married Laura Riggs. Helena Maud, a daughter, is the wife of R. D. Marshall, of Sedalia, Missouri, and has a daughter, Mildred. Mr. and Mrs. Broadbury are members of the United Presbyterian church, take an active interest in its work and are people of the highest respectability, enjoying the warm regard of all with whom they have been brought in contact.

WILLIAM W. KINSEY.

William W. Kinsey, an ex-county clerk of Preble county, is well known in the county. He was born in Monroe township, May 1, 1854. His father, David Kinsey, was a native of Montgomery county, Ohio, and the grandfather, David Kinsey, Sr., was born in Pennsylvania. Three brothers of the name came from Germany to the new world and were the founders of the family in Amer-

ica. In religious faith they were Dunkards. The grandfather of our subject removed to Ohio in pioneer days, taking up his abode in Montgomery county, where David Kinsey, Jr., was born, reared and educated. He became a very successful farmer, carrying on agricultural pursuits in Ohio until 1845, when he removed to Kansas. He resided in that state during the time of the border warfare and was a staunch Whig in his political views, advocating the admission of Kansas into the Union as a free state. He was twice married. For his second wife he married Mrs. Mary Garber, *nee* Petry, daughter of Henry Petry, one of the early settlers of Ohio. In his religious faith David Kinsey held the belief advocated by his ancestry and was a member of the Dunkard church. He and his wife are both deceased.

William W. Kinsey, their only child, was educated in the common schools and in the Lebanon Normal School, acquiring a broad general knowledge which ably fitted him for life's practical and responsible duties. In early life he was a successful teacher, being thus connected with the educational interests of Darke, Montgomery and Preble counties. For five years he served as the principal of the village schools of West Manchester. He afterward engaged in selling books, until 1893, when he was elected county clerk, and on the expiration of his term of three years was re-elected in 1896. He first took charge of the office August 1, 1894, and held it until August 1, 1900. Upon the close of his services in the county clerk's office Mr. Kinsey removed back to West Manchester, his present place of residence. He had

previously held the office of assessor in Monroe township for five years, and has filled other positions, discharging his duties with promptness and fidelity. In addition to his official cares he also superintended the operation of a farm of one hundred and fifty acres, which he owns in Harrison township.

On the 8th of December, 1884, Mr. Kinsey was united in marriage to Miss Elsa J. Huffman, a daughter of George Huffman, and Margaret (Hulser) Huffman, the father a native of Germany and the mother a native of Montgomery county, Ohio. Her father was a physician and lived and practiced in Darke county, where he died in 1862, when she was only a few months old. Her father was a graduate of the Eclectic Medical College of Ohio, at Cincinnati, in 1856. Mrs. Kinsey was born in Darke county, August 30, 1861, but reared in Preble county. Her mother married a second time in life and for many years resided in Darke county, at Arcanum, where she died in 1893. Their union was blessed with three children, but only two are now living,—Edith and Margaret. The eldest, Ethel, died aged nearly one year, in 1886. Mr. Kinsey is a member of the Knights of Pythias, the Independent Order of Foresters and Independent Order of Odd Fellows, and at present he is an officer of the high courts of the Independent Order of Foresters for Ohio. He is influential in Republican politics and is an unswerving advocate of the principles of the "grand old party." His many reliable qualities and his social characteristics have made him a popular citizen, and he enjoys the high regard of many friends throughout the community.

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